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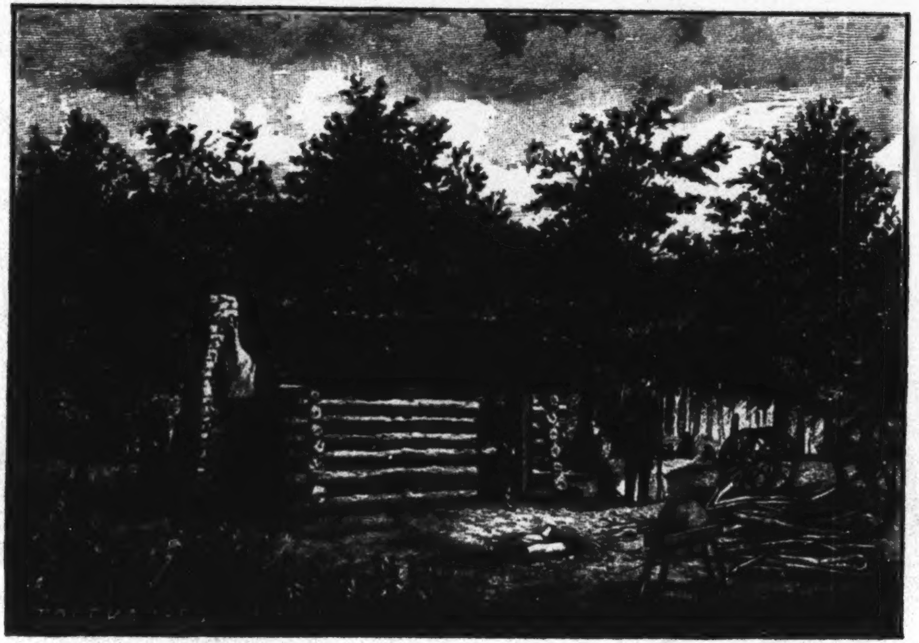

THIRTY YEARS IN TOPEKA

A HISTORICAL SKETCH

BY F. W. GILES

TOPEKA KANSAS
GEO. W. CRANE & CO. PUBLISHERS
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PREFACE.

IN offering this book to the public, I hardly feel that any apology is due from me, and yet the reason for its preparation should perhaps be given. The animating motive of the work was a desire that the early history of the city of Topeka might be preserved in perfect truthfulness—a desire which sympathetic friends will certainly not censure me for entertaining.

In matters which more especially pertain to Shawnee county, I feel rather to censure myself for not giving many facts and incidents omitted, but which in the future will be of considerable local interest.

Considerable space is given to purely State history, a thing quite foreign to the original design of the book, and which, in view of the comprehensive work by the State Historical Society, that the community is anxiously awaiting, would not have been touched upon at all, had it not been so intimately connected with a history of Topeka that it became necessary to do so.

Some events narrated will seem trivial now, but in the future their interest will be in the ratio that time past bears to the date of their occurrence. Contemporary observers will notice errors, of course, but hoping that none of importance have been committed, I can only remind the reader that it is human to err, and that it is divine to forgive.

The frontispiece is from an oil painting for the author by Henry Worrall, in 1870. I had prepared a sketch and submitted it for approval to early associates. From that Mr. Worrall produced the very satisfactory painting—18x28 inches—now in my possession. It is a true representation of the original cabin and its surroundings, as they existed during the winter of 1854-5, to the most minute detail. The representation of a quarter of beef may be taken as a symbol of the abundance that Topekans have always enjoyed, and serve as a reminder to the founders of the disturbance of their slumbers by the howling wolves.

Very respectfully, F. W. GILES.

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THE LAND AS FOUND.

COL. John C. Fremont, in the report of his first expedition over the plains, gives an account of his crossing the Kansas river with his company, on the 14th of May, 1842. He used for that purpose the India-rubber boats with which the expedition had been provided, though not without some loss, the river being high. The place of his crossing must have been very near the site of Topeka.

In the spring of 1848, the Government established a trading post for the Pottawatomie Indians, under the management of Col. Thomas N. Stinson, who was for many years subsequent to the erection of the Territory a resident of Tecumseh, and one of the most influential men in the founding of that town. The location of the post was about fourteen miles west of Topeka, on the south side of the river.

The annuities payable there sometimes exceeded in amount the sum of $100,000, and as all of this large sum of United States coins was expected to be exchanged for such commodities as semi-civilized conditions require, the locality naturally had great attractions for that peculiar class of frontiersmen known as Indian traders, and by the following year some ten or fifteen families of white persons were living there.

The Government called the place Uniontown. In 1852 a ferry-boat was constructed there for a Vermonter named Sidney W. Smith, who established a ferry at a point six miles west of Topeka, and for many years conducted a thriving business with his boat.

The first ferry that is known to have been established on the Kansas river, however, was that by Joseph and Ahcan Papan, in 1842, at the precise site of Topeka. At that time the south bank of the river was four or five hundred feet farther to the north than at present, and the Papans' dwelling house was near the bank. During the great flood of 1844 their house was carried away, as well as their ferry-boats, and when the waters subsided they found the site of their house to have become an island, a portion of which still remains above the bridge. It was several years before the Papans reëstablished themselves, but their ferry was popular and highly remunerative.

The notoriety given by the circumstances named caused a concentration of the overland travel to Oregon, California and Mexico, as also of military trains, to this locality, so that when the town of Topeka was founded there existed well-defined highways in the vicinity of its site.

The course of these highways was generally back from the larger streams, upon the divides, to avoid the difficulties incident to crossing their tributaries near their confluence. Thus the California road, as it was called, followed the divide between the Kansas and the Wakarusa rivers, through Douglas and Shawnee counties, to a point immediately west of Burnett's mound, and thence to the farms on the Kansas; while the military road from Fort Leavenworth to Santa Fé lay across that stream *via* Papan's ferry, to the west of Burnett's mound, crossed the Wakarusa near the site of Auburn, and bore away to the southwest.

For the accommodation of emigrant trains desiring to cross the river at Papan's ferry, a road had been opened from a point on the California road near the site of Big Springs *via* the site of Tecumseh, crossing Deer creek at the place where that creek is now bridged, and the Shunganunga at a point about on a line with Fourth street, where a pole bridge had been built, and thence intersected with the military road about two miles to the north of the Kansas river.

At the close of the year 1854, there were perhaps one hundred and thirty white families living on the territory now embraced in Shawnee county, mostly settled along the valleys of the Kansas and Wakarusa rivers, and many of whom had come into the Territory during that year, on their way to the Pacific coast, when, learning that the land was to be opened up to settlement by the Government, they abandoned their original purpose, and settled in the better country they were wearily passing.

Uniontown, of which mention has been made, became a place of some fifty houses by the year 1852, and had a national reputation as the first and last point west of the Mississippi river at which supplies could be procured by pilgrims seeking the Mecca of the gold diggings of California, in 1849 and subsequent years.

When the emigration ceased, the town rapidly declined, and when in 1855 the Government no longer discharged its obligations to the Indians there, it reverted to its pristine fields of grass.

A trading house had been established at Cross Creek, now Rossville, in 1853.

A town site was selected and a few log cabins built at a place near what is now Grantville, in Jefferson county. The U. S. District Court held a term there in the late autumn of 1854. The place was called Calhoun, and when the county of Jefferson was created by the Legislature of 1855, it was made the county seat of that county.

Two miles north of Topeka was the town of Indianola, on the line of the military road; and another in the same vicinity, of which J. B. Chapman and wife were the moving spirits, and which had been christened by its doting parents as Rochester. But this name not proving sufficiently attractive to immigrants, it was discarded for Whitfield City, in honor of the gentleman with such singular unanimity elected Territorial Delegate to Congress in the fall of 1854. This second christening was dropped in a few months, and the city became Kansapolis. Still the infant languished. Mr. and Mrs. Chapman thought they had sinned in changing its name at all, and again assumed for it their first appellation—Rochester. It was too late, however, and death soon followed—of too much name, it was said.

Something had been done about a town site immediately contiguous to the site of Topeka on the west, under the name of Fremont, and the writer remembers to have seen there, as late as in March, 1855, one man, one woman, one horse, seven chickens, one carriage and a shake shanty; but as the scene was somewhat tragical, nothing more shall be said about it.

But the only town enterprise of which Topeka had fears was their neigbor five miles to the east—Tecumseh—and of it more particular mention is elsewhere made.

Annoying errors have been published to the effect that Topeka was an "Emigrant Aid" town. It was such only in the facts that the Topeka Association bought of it second-hand machinery for a mill, and induced its agents to build a school house, for all of which ample remuneration was made.

THE TOPEKA ASSOCIATION.

THE 5th day of December, 1854, was the natal day of the flourishing town now known as the city of Topeka. On the morning of that day, in a little log cabin at the foot of Kansas avenue, were assembled nine strangers whom chance had brought together, and who were then and there to inaugurate a work destined to serve as a monument to their memory, more enduring may be, than pillar of marble or shaft of granite could have been.

As the sun moved up from the horizon, magnified to amazing breadth by the dry and rarified atmosphere, the strangers strolled out upon the high land or divide, midway between the Kansas and Shunganunga, to get a general view of the landscape, and to judge whether it was a fitting site upon which to found a town. A glance was sufficient to convince them that the expansive scene presented elements of the picturesque seldom surpassed in numbers and strength in one combination; and, as they have many a time since remarked, Topeka was a beautiful place before there were houses here, whether it be since or not.

Returning to the cabin the question arose for decision, whether they would attempt the founding of a town, or a fort for civilians to congregate at, as the enterprise, in view of the political condition of the country at that time, might properly have been designated.

M. C. Dickey, getting near the center of the cabin, that his full altitude might find space, moved that "that fellow with the white hat," pointing to C. K. Holliday, seated with the rest of the party upon the ground, "take the chair." The proposition was received with approval, and "the fellow with the white hat" sought to bring himself into proper elevation for a presiding officer. There was a sack of flour available, which answered the purpose of speaker's chair, the first in Topeka.

F. W. Giles was named as secretary, and the following agreement was drawn up and adopted:

We, the undersigned, agree that we will proceed to select and stake out claims in the vicinity of the dwelling house erected by M. C. Dickey, J. B. Chase, Enoch Chase and George Davis, situated near the Kansas river, to be disposed of as follows, namely: One and a half miles square shall be surveyed for a town site. Four claims are to be selected by M. C. Dickey, J. B. Chase, Enoch Chase and George Davis respectively, and the remainder to be assigned by lot when fifteen or more persons are on the ground and ready for a drawing.

The town site shall be divided into fifty shares, and the lots apportioned among the shareholders by lot, from time to time, as the association may direct, reserving, however, one-sixth of the lots of the town to be donated to such persons as will improve them as directed by the association, and also one-sixth to be donated to the Emigrant Aid Company, of Massachusetts, as a consideration for the erection of a mill, a school house, receiving house, etc. Moreover we agree, that the timber and wood on our claims may be used by any member of the association for his own improvement for one year, provided that no person shall take more than four thousand feet of timber, board measure, and six cords of wood, except from his own claim.

(Signed) C. K. Holliday,
F. W. Giles,
Daniel H. Horne,
George Davis,
Enoch Chase,
J. B. Chase,
M. C. Dickey,
C. Robinson,
L. G. Cleveland.

Kansas Territory, December 5, 1854.

This agreement constituted the basis of the Topeka Association, but on the 14th day of that month formal articles of association were adopted, and in conformity therewith officers were elected on the 18th, as follows:

Cyrus K. Holliday, *President.*
Enoch Chase, *Vice President.*
William C. Linaker, *Secretary.*
F. W. Giles, *Treasurer.*

Also a Board of Trustees, consisting of Messrs. Milton C. Dickey, Jacob B. Chase, Thomas G. Thornton, L. G. Cleveland and Daniel H. Horne.

The men forming this association were from four States, as follows: C. Robinson, at the time general business agent of the Emigrant Aid Company, and in 1861 Governor of Kansas, from Massachusetts; C. K. Holliday, from Pennsylvania; F. W. Giles and M. C. Dickey, from New Hampshire; D. H. Horne, Enoch Chase, George Davis and J. B. Chase, from Massachusetts; and L. G. Cleveland, from Iowa.

They had no unity of purpose in coming to Kansas, farther than to do what they might do to make Kansas a free State, until they met beneath the little roof of sods on the banks of the Kaw. Their names were not known to each other when they drew up and signed the foregoing agreement. An indication of this fact appears in the motion of Col. Dickey, that "that fellow with the white hat take the chair;" and yet we are confident in saying, that between these nine men, in all their intimate and varied intercourse through succeeding years of effort, in deprivation and want, in conflict of many interests, in adversity and in prosperity, there was never a serious word of disagreement. They are scattered now—some distant, some have gone to their long homes; three only remain upon the ground of their first meeting.

The animating idea of really forming a town that should in their day become of sufficient magnitude to have a national reputation, was not generally entertained, and the hope of its becoming the capital of the future State, though supported by advantageous location, was only enjoyed by two or three of the more sanguine.

Having determined upon their work, the inquiry was anxiously presented as to how to do it. It was an enterprise, the like of which had engaged the attention of no one of them before, except possibly Governor Robinson, and he did not remain with the party at all, or ever take an active part in the interests of the town. They had neither models of success or failure before them from which to profit in their new, untried labors. They had their reason to guide them — nothing more.

Two plans of action were considered, one leading to an early realization of pecuniary profits, by a sale of lots to such as might visit them; the other a free use of lots without regard to price, as social, commercial and political advantages might become available. A desire of wealth, ever active, was a potent argument for the former course; while the ambition to do a work in the new Territory that should be known and remembered in the future, coupled with the still stronger desire to bring about them at the earliest possible time the comforts and elegances of life to which they were accustomed, was a powerful incentive to the latter course. In the councils upon this subject the "give away" policy prevailed. With what degree of faithfulness it was carried out, future accounts shall determine.

THE BEGINNING.

THE cabin that was built and occupied by the founders of Topeka during the first few months of their enterprise was of the trunks of trees, small and crooked, that grew near its location by the river; a log cabin to be sure, but not very like the comely and comfortable structure bearing that name in the spruce forests of the New England of yore. Its dimensions were about twelve by fourteen feet, and five feet in height at the sides. The gables were extended up some three feet above the sides. Poles upon these, supported, first a layer of brush and then a thatch of prairie grass. At the west end, just outside of the logs, was piled a parcel of stones somewhat in the form of the fireplace of old, without mortar, and extending upward just above the roof, the logs of the gable forming the inside wall of the chimney. A banking of earth was thrown up against the logs on the north, and the interstices between the logs chinked with brush and plastered with mud. The only opening purposely left for light or ingress was to the south, and a strip of cotton cloth hung there to keep out the cold.

The engraving that forms our frontispiece may be taken as a true representation of that first rude hut, in which the founders of the town for three or four months found partial shelter from the cold and storms of the winter of 1854-5.

Their subsistence was the simplest fit for human food, their beds a thin layer of prairie grass strewn upon the ground, and their covering the clothing worn during the day with blankets and buffalo robes over them. Upon a pole projecting from the west gable of the cabin is a representation of a quarter of beef. Mr. J. K. Waysman, who, in the previous summer had settled five or six miles to the eastward, was persuaded to slaughter one of his animals, and this portion was kept in the place as indicated during several months, furnishing occasional dinners for the settlers, but a provoking annoyance to the coyote wolves by night.

A few days after the little party had settled down to the necessities of the case, and got in a few supplies, it became apparent that the flames that roared up the chimney occasionally came in dangerous proximity to the thatch of the roof. As they straightened themselves one night upon the litter of hay that matted their cabin floor, and sought repose, it was remarked that the cabin would be on fire before morning, but with jesting and indifference the subject was dismissed, and in weariness all eyes were soon closed. They had not slept long, however, before a flash of light brought all eyes open again, and they gazed upon a mass of fire enveloping the brush and thatch, and burning straws falling upon the hay on which they lay.

There was work to be done, and that right quickly. In one corner was stored flour, meal, beans, coffee, tea, clothing, arms, a keg of molasses and a keg of powder. To remove these was the important work in hand, and it was fortunate that the men had gone to their rest without removing their hats and boots. One caught the keg of powder and hurled it down the declivity towards the river, while others seized what they could, and in a twinkling all except a few garments and a gun or two were safely strewn upon the prairie. In the melee the spile was knocked out of the molasses keg, and an unreasonable mixture of meal and molasses, as well as badly smeared garments, resulted.

The "city" was in ruins, and the people thereof in anxiety queried how best to guard themselves against cold during the night. They had a small tent, which they erected, and in vain attempts to sleep on the naked ground with the thin canvas alone over them, a part suffered through the night, while others secured such shelter from the piercing winds as they could in the thicket of brush near by.

Considerable uneasiness was felt during the first winter on account of the entire absence of laws and judicial officers. Application was made in January to Gov. Reeder for the appointment of a justice of the peace and deputy marshal. C. K. Holliday was appointed to the former position and D. H. Horne to the latter, but I am not aware that they ever had occasion to exercise their authority. A few months later their authority was superseded by the enactments of the "Bogus" Legislature; but rather than recognize these, the people proposed to rely on the reserved rights incident to "squatter laws" and a public sentiment.

There were a few occasions during the first winter when these squatter laws were brought into requisition. They arose in each instance from the practice of "claim jumping," as it was familiarly called, and which consists of attempts to acquire a better right in law to preëmpt any particular piece of land than a previous occupant. The first occasion of this kind arose from a man who suddenly appeared with his load of logs, upon land that the settlers were intending to hold for town purposes, and proceeded to erect a cabin. The place of his domicile was near the intersection of Topeka and Eighth avenues. The man was waited upon and told that he must not erect his cabin there, as it was an infringement of vested rights under the sovereignty of squatter law. He was disinclined to regard the remonstrance—in fact, like the "young sauce box" in the apple tree, he "plainly told the old man he would not come down."

When the glare of sunshine was gone, and the moon shone dimly o'er the scene, the vigilance committee moved upon the intruder's works. Kind words were of no avail, and the work of demolition soon followed. A team had been brought along, and a single load of logs hauled away was sufficient discouragement to the intruder to induce him to seek other fields of usefulness. It had been thought prudent for such as had pistols and shot-guns to take them along, but happily no occasion arose for their use. This event occurred on the 8th of January, and was spoken of as a slight testimonial of remembrance of Gen. Jackson at New Orleans.

The other event was of a somewhat more serious nature. Towards spring a man by the name of Hummer appeared at the house of Mr. A. A. Ward, who during the previous summer had settled in the neighborhood, and proposed to buy a portion of his grounds, held under squatter privileges. Hummer was a man who had to some extent officiated as a clergyman at Keokuk, but had become quite unpopular there, and concluded to change the field of his labors for Kansas. Possibly he had heard that our little community was in need of missionary services—he had a woman with him, possibly she was his wife. Hummer was a wily man, and Mr. Ward was probably somewhat suspicious of the Yankees who had taken steps to found the town. Under these circumstances, Hummer succeeded in getting some manner of a writing from Mr. Ward, which he supposed would be sufficient to protect him in holding a portion of Ward's farm. He proceeded to erect a little cabin near the west bank of the creek, probably at about the intersection of First avenue with land now owned by D. L. Lakin. Mr. Ward became alarmed for the consequences, and proceeded to counsel with acquaintances at Tecumseh in regard to the best course to pursue. The few people who had gathered in that neighborhood during the winter, better comprehending the necessities of the situation than men from Eastern States, had, after the general manner of frontiersmen, organized a squatter sovereign court. This organization promptly advised Ward of the fact that in coming to another settlement they might be chargeable with exceeding their jurisdiction; they advised him to consult his immediate neighbors, and induce them, if he might, to join in contemplated proceedings. Business was promptly attended to. The Tecumseh men made their appearance, utter strangers, some six or eight of them, at the headquarters of the Topeka men. Of the number were the Edwards brothers, Bob and Ike, two border ruffians, then probably, as afterwards certainly, familiar with scenes of blood. After a few minutes deliberation, the united parties, ten or fifteen men in all, proceeded to the cabin of Hummer. The strategic point was to get possession of the dangerous paper that had been given by Ward. Demand was made for its production. The demand was complied with, and Hummer, holding the paper firmly by both hands, proceeded to read. He had not proceeded far before some one standing near snatched the paper from his hands, and immediately tore it in fragments and scattered them before the wind. Hummer essayed words of denunciation, but it was not the occasion for talk. Ike Edwards, standing perhaps twenty feet from Hummer, held in his hand a pebble stone of some two pounds weight, which he had unobservedly brought with him for the occasion, and hurled it with great force at Hummer's head. It hit him near the temple, and he fell to the ground as heavily as though a ball from a cannon had hit him. A very few minutes sufficed to scatter the shakes and poles of the rude hovel on the prairie. Hummer was not fatally injured, but soon recovered his reason. A team had been brought along. Hummer's carriage was hitched behind it, his baggage put in the wagon, and Hummer and woman put into the carriage. The whole party then moved off to the southwest, crossing the Shunganunga, and on the high prairies beyond left Hummer, his woman, carriage and baggage to find relief if they might, or to perish if they must. Late in the day the party returned to Mr. Ward's and partook of a bountiful repast prepared for the occasion. Repeated attempts were made by Hummer, in after years, to hold the parties responsible to him for their maltreatment, but the courts afforded him no relief.

There were a few other occasions when difficulties arose, but the majesty of squatter courts had been sufficiently demonstrated, and no serious measures were required.

As the spring of 1855 opened, a few rude dwelling places had been provided. The families of the settlers came on from their distant homes of comfort in the East, to take part in the hard labors and deprivations of the pioneer, in this instance intensified by a cloud of social and political strife strange to American skies, that hung like a pall over the field of their labors. The trial to the women and children was great, but their fortitude proved equal to the necessities, and they fitted themselves to the situation with cheerfulness.

The spring was far advanced before nature's charms appeared to enliven the scene and cheer the hearts of the settlers; but when they did appear, in novelty and richness, they met an appreciation that it is certain they had never met at the heart of man before.

The settlers, appreciating the importance of social influences, promptly took measures to bring the persons and families to an acquaintance with each other. As there was no house reasonably spacious for one family even, it was determined to have a picnic, after their Eastern customs. The grounds between First avenue and the river were at that time covered with quite a dense growth of timber and shrubs, and yielding shade about as complete as any roof in the settlement could do; so there, on grounds now traversed by Kansas avenue, the picnic was to be held. A committee was appointed to clear away the underbrush, and arrange such substitutes for tables as the materials accessible would permit. The women joined with cheerfulness in preparing such dishes and delicacies as, out of nothing, they often seem to do, while the men brought such coarser essentials and conveniences as they might. The 17th of May was the day appointed for this first of all Topeka's social gatherings. All the people living on the town site, and for miles around—Indians excluded—were invited to participate in the festival. Mrs. Ward contributed a roasted pig, of ample size, for the head of the table, and the friendly Kaw contributed a twenty-pound catfish for the opposite end.

Never did a little community of strangers work with more hearty good feeling to solace each other with sympathetic words and kindly acts. In many instances they had never met till they met on that festive occasion, and yet they appeared toward each other more like tried acquaintances and friends. The occasion was a joyful one to all participants, and left the influence of love and good will to work upon them for many years. As an indication of the feeling that pervaded the occasion, we subjoin a few of the sentiments that were prompted:

"*Our Territory*—May she soon become a star of the first magnitude in the glowing constellation that adorns the flag of the republic."

"*The Influence of Woman*—Ever elevating and refining in its tendencies, and nowhere more welcome or needed than here. We hail its advent, and those who exert it, as harbingers of better and happier times."

"*Our Friends at Home*—Far distant, but fondly remembered. May they be as prosperous and happy as they are dearly loved."

"*The Maine Law*—May it be to Topeka what the main pillar is to the temple of liberty. Having its foundations in the hearts of the people, let the superstructure be such as to withstand all assaults, until its topmost stone shall be laid in triumph."

Numerous brief addresses were made, interspersed with sentiments and mirth-provoking witticisms. A vote of thanks was given to the ladies, the remaining cakes sold at auction for the benefit of the first church that should be built in Topeka, a fervent thanksgiving to God at the lips of the Rev. Mr. Jordan, and the first social gathering in Topeka dispersed.

The subject of greatest anxiety with the earlier settlers of Kansas, especially at interior points, was the needed supply of lumber for building purposes. With no timber but upon the river bottoms, and that of a very inferior quality for building purposes, with no railroads within four or five hundred miles, with no navigable streams but that bounding the Territory on the east, with no friendly neighbors to supply their wants, with no mills and with little or no capital with which to buy them, the prospect in this regard, to men who had just arrived from the timbered districts of the East, was laden with great anxieties.

The procurement of a saw mill was the first subject that engaged the attention of the Topeka Association after getting possession of the ground. The Aid Company had a small engine and boiler at Kansas City, which it was thought would be of sufficient power to serve the purpose of a saw mill, and for this arrangements were at once completed. A site was selected for erecting a mill building on the river bank, near the foot of Madison street.

The settlers were only familiar with the character of mills in use in the timbered districts of Pennsylvania and New England, and subjected themselves to unnecessary trouble in erecting a building of greater strength than there was need of for the lighter machinery to be used. Very heavy sills were hewn from oak trees found upon the banks of the Shunganunga, to the east of the mill site, while the lighter timbers, of cottonwood, were taken from the island above the Kansas bridge. The settlers were mostly unused to axe or spade, but the exigencies were great, and they all turned to the work of building with a zeal that compensated for deficiency of strength and endurance.

The transportation of the boiler from Kansas City was attended with great difficulties, on account of the absence of a suitable team and wagon. It was accomplished, however, and we well remember the hearty cheers as the boiler-laden vehicle, at a late hour of night, came groaning over the frozen snow and passed the cabin door.

The saw mill was gotten into operation late in the spring, but its power was found quite too small for the hard and tough timber available to its manufacture, and it proved very inadequate to the demands upon it.

The saw mill being prospectively secured, the next thing in order was to get logs to saw. At that time the river bottom on the north side, for a mile or so back, was covered with timber of various kinds, oak, walnut, and especially of cottonwood, all desirable for lumber. It belonged to the reserve of some twenty families of half-breed Kaw Indians that were residing there. This timber was looked upon with covetous eyes by the settlers. It attracted the attention of Gov. Reeder, too, and report had gone abroad that he was negotiating with the Indian bureau at Washington for its purchase. The settlers felt that it would be greatly to their interest if the Governor could buy it, for they were assured that in that event he would either erect a mill and manufacture lumber for their use, or sell them the timber to manufacture themselves. To what extent negotiations were actually carried we are not informed, but the rumor coming to an Indian agent residing in Missouri, a Pro-Slavery man, it was at once magnified into an attempt to swindle the Indians, and made a pretext for requiring the Governor's removal. This barred all hopes of a lumber supply from that source. All available supply was thus limited to about a hundred tall cottonwood trees standing by the southern river bank, on the town site, and a few oaks and walnuts by the creeks. These cottonwoods were the common property of the settlers. An allotment was made—a few trees to each—and they were soon taken to the mill for manufacture.

The prospect of houses in the ideal city had a marked effect upon the spirits of the settlers, and perceptibly affected the price of real estate, for, with quick regard to the American custom of making merchandise of land, the sale of lots and "city interests" had immediately succeeded the work of the surveyor. Most of the settlers had families at the East whom they were anxious to bring out in the spring, and the all-absorbing question with most of them was, What shall we do for building material? As it became apparent that the saw mill could afford no relief till late in the spring at least, many resorted to the use of rude frames made of hewn poles, and weather-boarding rived from the oak trees, in Western parlance known as "shakes." In these rude and comfortless shanties many families were under the necessity of living for years, who had been accustomed in their Eastern homes to the highest comforts of civilization. Had Gov. Reeder been permitted to carry out his laudable designs towards them, in supplying lumber for comfortable dwellings; had he been sustained in his impartial course as between the Free-State settlers and the "border ruffians," there would have been no "Bleeding Kansas;" John Brown, half crazed with the brutal murder of his two sons, had not gone to Harper's Ferry; and John Brown not at Harper's Ferry, then—what?

The matter of roads, too, demanded attention. The rude bridge that had been constructed over the Shunganunga had fallen to decay, and as the road from Papan's ferry to the Big Springs connection with the California road was the only route to the East, it was all important that a new one should be built. The Topeka Association raised the means to do this, and contracted for the work, to be done by Mr. Amos Trott, a good mechanic who had arrived from Massachusetts, and whither, after a few years, he returned, leaving his cottonwood mansion on grounds now famous as the site of the Topeka mineral wells.

The bridge was well constructed, and for many years was the best specimen of bridge architecture between Topeka and Lawrence. To make connection with the military road, the pride as well as the interests of the settlers seemed to demand a ferry immediately at the town site. As this was a work requiring considerable capital, the association entered into agreement with Dr. S. E. Martin and Hiram Coville to establish and maintain the ferry, and gave them two city interests as an inducement. The road from the north bank of the river was opened to connection with the military road about two miles to the northwest, near the locality of a rival town that soon after sprung up, called Indianola. These means of communication being accomplished, and the committee on roads and bridges making report on the 7th of May that the road to Big Springs was "staked out," the public mind was relieved in that direction.

In the fore part of May two or three boats succeeded in getting as far as Topeka, and one or more of them passed beyond. They brought a little flour and other commodities that the settlers were in need of, but no lumber—their greatest need. Every encouragement possible was extended them to make another trip to us and bring the lumber so greatly desired, but the river continued too low to justify them in making another trip for the slight trade offered that year, and the settlers were a good deal disheartened at the bad prospects for building materials. But the repeated disappointments in anticipated supplies of building materials, severe and disheartening to the settlers as indeed they were, were really but blessings in disguise, for the best of building materials in limitless quantities were everywhere around them, awaiting the hand of but ordinary skill, to be brought from their everlasting beds and reformed into cheap and desirable habitations for man.

We have reference, of course, to stratified deposits of carboniferous limestone, everywhere underlying eastern Kansas, broken into convenient size for use in any desired strength and weight of masonry, and appearing at the surface of the ground on almost every quarter section. The peculiar adaptability of this rock to the wants of the settlers could not, of course, have been entirely unnoticed by them, but they were unaccustomed to the use of such materials for dwellings, and were not informed whether it would yield a good quality of lime for mortar. Rude attempts to test this important question were made by getting a pile of wood and heaping the rock upon it for reduction. The result was most gratifying and important. A pure white lime appeared, which, upon union with the sand at the river bank, was found to produce a mortar of very unusual excellence for ordinary building purposes. At this time Dr. Franklin L. Crane, from Easton, Pennsylvania, fortuitously appeared upon the scene, and proved a very valuable accession to the little community. Dr. Crane had practical chemical skill, a patent lime-kiln, an ample supply of capital, and was an enthusiast in the cause of free Kansas. He was at once admitted to equal rights of ownership in the town enterprise, upon condition of his erecting a lime-kiln and furnishing that now all important commodity—lime. From that day to the present, Topeka has enjoyed unsurpassed facilities as to quantity and quality of common building materials. There were no skilled masons to combine these materials in buildings, but such as there were,

were at once engaged in the work of house building. The first building of stone was that subsequently used by the Topeka Constitutional Convention. This building, 33x40 feet, and two stories above basement, was erected on lots 133 and 135 Kansas avenue, and proved of immense value to the town, on account, especially, of affording accommodation for the irregular but somewhat famous body which, in the fall of 1855, framed and put before the country the "Topeka Constitution." The building received the name of "Constitution Hall," and besides serving on many important political occasions during the Territorial days of Kansas, was, during the early years of the State government, occupied as a Senate chamber. The town was chiefly indebted for this building to Messrs. John and Loring Farnsworth. A simpler class of masonry than this was soon introduced, which was called "concrete," but had not the characteristics of work known by that name in other localities, except that it was laid between curbing. It was a valuable substitute for the ordinary class of masonry, on account of the very slight degree of mechanical skill required in its construction. Late in the autumn of 1855, a small, one-story building of this kind was erected for the accommodation of the *Kansas Tribune*, on the west side of Quincy street, between Fourth and Fifth streets, and in which that paper was published during the succeeding winter, under the most exposed conditions in which it were possible to perform such work.

The first bricks used in Topeka were made by

Leonard W. Horne, near the river, on lot No. 8 of section 21, township 11, range 16, in the spring of 1856. Of the bricks made then three dwelling houses were erected, one being on the east side of Topeka avenue between Third and Fourth streets; one at the southwest corner of Kansas avenue and Second street, and a larger and better one than either of those at lots 80 to 84 on Sixth avenue east, by Joseph C. Miller, Esq., where he resided many years. It was in the basement of that building that Mr. Miller, as a justice of the peace, held judicial proceedings in the preliminary examination of Col. Ritchie for killing the U. S. marshal—an event attended with greater public excitement than any other of a judicial character in the city.

Early in the year 1856, Topeka Association gave the east half of the block lying between Jackson and Van Buren streets and north of First avenue to Mr. Horne, and the west half of the same block to Mr. Enoch Chase, to be used in both cases for brick yards. Mr. Chase sold his rights in the land to Gordon & Allen, a mercantile firm, for $200, that being the value of his expenditures upon the land, and soon after they employed Mr. G. G. Gage to engage in brick making. From the bricks he then made (the first made on the site) a very fine smoke stack was erected for the Topeka Mill Company, also the front of Messrs. Gordon & Allen's store, at lot No. 103 Kansas avenue.

Great anxiety was felt that a "receiving house" should be erected early in the spring, and as it was found impracticable to wait for better materials, a contract was entered into with Mitchell and Zimmerman to build one of poles and "shakes." Under the stimulus of a reasonable donation of town lots, the work was accomplished about the first of June, and afforded accommodations, under the style of "Pioneer House," till a better was provided. It was an exceedingly rude affair, located on lots at the southeast corner of Kansas avenue and Third street.

On the 17th of May, 1856, there arrived H. W. Farnsworth, S. T. Walkley and Abel Merrill, strangers in Topeka, and in Kansas, who soon became sufficiently interested in the little settlement to risk an enterprise there of which it was in greater need than of any other. It was a saw mill and grist mill combined, and of sufficient power to perform all demands that might be made upon it. The proposition was received with great interest by the settlers, and sufficient inducements offered the strangers, in the way of interests in the town, to secure their immediate commencement of the work. The northwest corner of Kansas and First avenues was selected as the site. The magnitude and character of the enterprise rendered it difficult of accomplishment in a country with few mechanics, no foundries or machine shops, and agitated with a political strife amounting to almost civil war, as was Kansas in 1856. From these causes the mills were not ready for operating till the succeeding spring, but for many years after their completion they rendered great service to Topeka and surrounding country. The first work of the grist mill was performed on the first day of December, but sawing began in the following spring.

POSSESSING THE LAND.

ONE of the first subjects engaging the attention of the founders of the enterprise was that of securing title to the desired quantity of ground. There existed a law of the United States, by provisions of which a tract of 320 acres might be preëmpted for town purposes, by methods analogous to those by which individuals might preëmpt of the unsurveyed public domain for farming purposes, and preliminary steps were duly taken by the founders to avail themselves of that privilege.

But a tract of 320 acres was quite inadequate to the purposes of these men. They aspired to the possession of a tract so great as four square miles—ample space indeed for many quiet people to dwell.

Great expedition was necessary in determining the boundaries, and in securing nominal possession, at least, of their ground, for all enterprises of this nature were eagerly watched by persons who desired to secure farm claims in near proximity to embryo towns in the new Territory, and worse still, they were watched by men and by communities of men who desired to frustrate all attempts to found Free-State towns. Hence, as we have said, the demand for prompt action.

There was no surveyor in the party, and none could be had at a nearer place than thirty miles away. There was no telegraphic line, no railroad, no beast to ride, even; but there were some bits of cordage that had bound the trunks and boxes, and there was a fifty-cent compass that one had provided himself with against possible emergencies on the pathless plains. Two lines of cordage were formed, by careful estimate each supposed to be four rods in length. It may be excusable to mention names in connection with this most important feat of civil engineering, then to be undertaken, but modesty forbids to state who had the honor of bearing the compass.

Holliday and Giles took one of the ropes, and one of them took the compass in his fingers, and, faithful to its index, started towards the rising sun. The initial point of all things good in those days was the log cabin.

D. H. Horne and Enoch Chase took the other rope, and though they had no compass to guide them, they could see, when the first-named party had proceeded a few hundred feet, what the line was, and fix their course by it and the position of the fire on the distant prairie.

So the friends parted company that frosty but pleasant morning, cheerful in anticipation of a walk back to the cabin together, when each party should have marked a line in opposite directions of one mile, thence southward two miles, thence eastward or westward respectively one mile.

But the wanderings of that day are painful to the memory. The friends did not see each other again till by the light of the candle around the mush board, on the succeeding night. However, it was a good enough survey for the times. Only one "jumper" had the presumption to trespass, and he did not stay.

Soon after the event of that survey a change in public sentiment had taken place in regard to the extent of land required to build a city, and the articles of association were, on the 11th of December, so modified that one and a half miles square only would be deemed sufficient.

The limits of the proposed town having been designated in the rude and uncertain manner named, the matter of choice of farm claims around the town came to be a question of considerable importance, for most of the settlers contemplated availing themselves of preëmption rights, notwithstanding their town enterprise, which by many of them was regarded as of secondary importance.

Four men who had camped upon the ground with the purpose of securing preëmption claims, on the 30th of November, were allowed to have their choice, to be determined between themselves before others. It may be of interest at this time to observe the relative degrees of desirability with which localities were regarded at that time. Jacob B. Chase had the first choice, and selected what under Government survey came to be the northwest quarter of section 6, township 12, range 16; M. C. Dickey, for second choice, selected the northeast quarter of section 1, township 12, range 15; Enoch Chase, for third choice, took the northwest quarter of section 1, township 12, range 15; and George Davis, for fourth choice, took the northeast quarter of section 2, township 12, range 15. These are only relative localities, as the surveys had not been made.

On the 17th of December the other members of the town company, being seventeen in number, held a lottery for choice of farm claims, but their several selections need not be named, further than to state that with two exceptions—those of Philip Briggs and Geo. F. Crowe—the river bottoms were avoided, principally from the apprehensions that they might prove unhealthy.

It had at first been provided that the property of the enterprise should be divided into fifty equal parts by allotment, but on the 3d day of January, 1855, it was determined that the number of shares should be one hundred, and on the 9th day of the same month it was determined that the first twenty-eight members of the association should, at each general division of lots that might be made, have one additional or "award lot," and this provision was adhered to and fulfilled, though not exactly in the sense expected, for a lot at that time signified a tract 75 by 150 feet.

A surveyor, Mr. A. D. Searle, was procured from Lawrence, and the work of surveying and platting the town was commenced about the 20th of December. The Government surveys not having been made, there was no possibility of making the course of streets to conform to what the Government lines might be, and this fact, in connection with reasons of a topographical nature, determined the course of the streets. Thus, from the course given to Kansas avenue, there was a slight descent of ground to the right and to the left, favorable to drainage; similar topographical conditions also existing with reference to Harrison street and Topeka avenue.

The first survey stake was placed a few yards from the cabin, and was declared to be the southwest corner of First and Kansas avenues, according to an incomplete plan for the town that had been previously agreed upon. From that point the lines of Kansas avenue were fixed, southward, as far as to Sixth avenue, and lots designated, fronting 75 feet on Kansas avenue by 150 feet in depth; and from these an allotment was made on the 28th day of December to each of the twenty-eight persons at that date constituting the Topeka Association.

Immediately after that allotment the surveys were continued, and all that tract lying between First and Sixth avenues, westward to Topeka avenue and eastward to Eastern avenue (now Jefferson street), was surveyed and platted in streets and avenues as at present existing, but the squares formed by the crossing of the streets were designated as "blocks," and numbered from west to east, beginning with No. 5, at the intersection of First and Topeka avenues, and ending with No. 60, at the intersection of Sixth avenue and Jefferson street. Each block was divided into twelve lots 75 by 150 feet, and numbered from the northeast corner southward, one to six, and from the southwest corner northward, seven to twelve.

An allotment was held under that plan on the 30th of April, 1855, and it was the recognized plat of the town by the Topeka Association and by its members in their dealings with each other, till the 17th of April, 1856, when the survey of the whole site having been completed, the plan now in use was adopted, and a lithographic plat soon after obtained.

The division of lots among the shareholders continued thereafter to such extent as was deemed prudent, in view of some degree of uncertainty as to the precise boundaries the town might ultimately have.

As before stated, the association had expected to preëmpt 320 acres of land as a part of their town area, but for the other seven quarter sections embraced within the proposed limits of one and a half miles square, they must depend principally upon the good faith of some seven men of their number who might occupy and preëmpt them as farm lands, and thereafter convey them to the association.

As the Government surveys had not been made, the association was greatly embarrassed in its work, for they could really know nothing as to where the surveys, when they should be made, would place them; but they knew that the land subsequently comprising the farm of Mr. Ward, at the northwest corner of the town tract, was already beyond their reach, for it had been occupied by him for some months. The grounds for which the association would require men to preëmpt was therefore reduced to six.

On the 2d of January the trustees were directed to make arrangements with, and designate to the association for approval, six men to carry out this important part of the enterprise. They named James A. Hickey, Edwin S. Dexter, C. K. Holliday, R. L. Mitchell, Abel F. Hartwell and Harvey G. Young, and their selection was approved by the association, every one of whom proved faithful to the trusts, though they were not all required to literally perform them, on account of the town limits having been subsequently diminished.

They were necessarily barred from preëmpting lands for their individual use by this arrangement, and as a compensation for this loss of privilege, an additional share in the town enterprise was awarded to each of them. On the 13th of November, 1855, these were designated as follows:

To R. L. Mitchell, share No. 51; to A. T. Hartwell, share No. 52; to H. G. Young, share No. 53; to James A. Hickey, share No. 54; to E. S. Dexter, share No. 55, and to C. K. Holliday, share No. 56.

The Government surveys of the locality were made in February, 1856, and it was then known that the course of the streets varied 18.40 degrees from the line of the Government survey; that from the nature of the survey, only a fractional quarter section could be secured by direct modes of preemption, instead of 320 acres, as had been anticipated; that only four of the seven additional quarter sections which it had been the purpose of the association to secure, lay fully within the limits that had been marked and surveyed for town purposes, and that though it might hold several forty-acre tracts besides these, there were grave apprehensions that this right might be disputed by individuals in possession, and tedious litigation arise, to the great detriment of the general scheme. For these reasons it was deemed advisable to abandon all hope and effort in securing more than the four quarter sections, constituting section 31 of township 11, range 16, containing by United States survey 621.80 acres, and the southeast fractional quarter of section 30, containing 62.20 acres.

Thus it came that the lands which constituted the original site of the city of Topeka embraced the exact quantity of 684 acres, according to the Government survey.

NAMING THE TOWN AND STREETS.

IT was nearly a month after the founding of the town before anything was done about giving it a name. The Pro-Slavery people were inclined to dub the Yankee settlements in the Territory with some opprobrious epithet, which it was sometimes difficult to efface from the public memory; and to avoid this being the case with Topeka, its founders bethought themselves upon the subject, and the evening of the first day of January, 1855, was set as the time when each member of the association might offer for consideration such name as might be agreeable to him, and from the names so submitted one should be selected upon majority vote. The evening was spent in discussing the relative merits of the names presented, but no satisfactory result was reached. On the succeeding evening the subject was again under consideration. One of the men had an altogether unknown name to present, which he thought combined many qualities fitting to the exigencies of the case, though he could neither give its derivation nor its signification. He said it was a name not found in the list of post offices of the United States, nor in any lexicon of the English language. It was novel, of Indian origin, and euphonious of sound. It was composed of three consonants, alternating with three vowels—T-o-p-e-k-a. No one seeing it could fail of the proper pronunciation; no one hearing it spoken could fail to know its orthography: many desirable qualities. The name was received with favor, and soon adopted with unanimity.

Halloway, in his "History of Kansas," says that the name was first suggested by Mr. Webb, secretary of the New England Emigrant Aid Society, but this is entirely wrong. The writer first heard the word spoken by the Rev. S. Y. Lum, in a conversation with him at Topeka, on the second day of January, 1855; and when he presented it for adoption as the name of the embryo town, no one present had ever heard it before. Neither was Dr. Webb in any way connected with the founding of the town, or known to have visited it for many years after.

On the anniversary of the founding of the town, in 1871, a few of the founders took a pleasure ride about the town, and some beholder was inspired to a poetical effusion, the concluding stanzas of which I append:

Then gathered in a circle,
  Around their cabin fire,
They all agreed their city
  To a name might now aspire.

After many fruitless ballots,
  The teller shouts "Eureka!"
Giles has won the right of sponsor—
  The name shall be "Topeka."

All honor to these noble men—
Chase, Giles, Horne, Holliday!
Their hopes have reached fruition—
True "city fathers," they.

But as they pace the busy street,
And list the noisy hum,
They speak with honest triumph
Of a better time to come.

Considerable inquiry has been made in regard to the origin and signification of the word "Topeka." Col. W. A. Phillips, formerly a representative in Congress from Kansas, and a scholar in Indian languages, was of the opinion that the word was identical in meaning with the word "Topheika," found in the language of the Pottawatomie Indians, and which signified "mountain potato."

The half-breed Kansas Indians, twenty or more families of whom were living on the north side of the river opposite to Topeka when it was founded, stated that the bottoms of the river in this vicinity were known to that tribe as "To-pe-ka," for the reason that it was a good place in which to gather the little esculent tuber known to the whites as the wild potato, as was indeed quite true at that time.

Persons in reading an account of the last and most terrific battle of the Cherokee Indians with the troops under command of General Jackson, on the Tallapoosa river, in Alabama, on the 22d of January, 1814, may have been impressed with the similarity of the word Tohopeka, in that connection used, and have queried to themselves whether the word was not identical with our Topeka. An inquiry as to this, made by Judge Adams, secretary of the Kansas State Historical Society, of Hon. B. F. Meek, president of the Alabama Historical Society, has elicited the information following. Mr. Meek says: "There can be no connection in meaning between your Topeka and our Tohopeka, the former being an Indian word of the Kansas or Dakota stock, and the latter of the Appalachian or Choctaw-Muscogee stock. The meaning of Tohopeka has been traced and satisfactorily settled. Its meaning is 'barricade or fortification.' In the desperate battle that General Jackson had with the Indians in Tallapoosa, the battle called 'The Battle of the Horse-shoe,' (though the Indians never so called it,) the Indians were protected by the barricade or breastwork of logs which they had built across the back of the peninsula. Hence comes the name Tohopeka."

John B. Dunbar, formerly a professor of languages at Washburn College, and who had made the study of the languages of the aborigines a specialty, some years since furnished the writer with the following complete analysis of the word, and this we take to be conclusive upon the matter:

"The composition of the word Topeka is as follows: It is made up of three words, common, with a slight dialectic variation, with the languages of the Iowa, Omaha and Kansas or Kaw Indians. These words are, *to*, a word meaning potato (the wild kind); *pe*, an adjective (shortened from *pekae*) meaning good, and *okae*, a word meaning to dig. In the process of composition the *e* of *pe* is dropped, or rather hardened to the consonant *y*, making from the three words *to-pyo-kae*, which means literally, 'a good place to dig potatoes.' In the language of the three tribes named, the word was applied as a general term to the Kansas or Kaw river, or the valley along its course. The historical origin of the application of the term, was the fact that not unfrequently in the spring, when the supply of other food fell short, the Kansas, Iowa, and other Indians resorted to this region, and for some weeks secured a scanty sustenance by digging and eating the wild artichoke that abounded in certain parts of the area named. The name of the city, therefore, very appropriately perpetuates the most important aboriginal association connected with its immediate vicinity. The word Topeka, or *Topyo-kae*, by a natural enlargement, was frequently used by the Iowas and Omahas as the name of the Kansas river, but not, I think, by the Kansas Indians. Their name for it was *Kansa*, swift."

Upon the subject of naming the streets, then various suggestions were made, and at one time the idea was entertained of naming the streets running north and south after the several names of timber, as oak, ash, etc., but the plan of naming for the presidents received general favor, except as to the name of Pierce, which would not be tolerated for a moment, on account of the policy of his administration towards Kansas.

Gen. John C. Fremont was at that time the popular man of the West, and his name was substituted in the general order for that of Pierce. In subsequent years Fremont street came to be called Fillmore street, though by what authority we are not now able to state. What is now Jefferson street was at first designated Eastern avenue.

The unusual breadth of the streets is often a matter of surprise to strangers, but it was the mind of the founders to make them so; with land at a dollar and a quarter an acre, they certainly could afford to, and we have seen few who regretted their action.

It is not within the province of this work to speak of the numerous additions and streets that have been named beyond the original town limits.

BOATING ON THE KAW.

THE fact that materials used in the construction of Fort Riley were taken by steamboats directly from St. Louis to that point without difficulty, in 1858, was familiar to the founders of Topeka, and was a strong influence in determining the site of the town. As early as the 12th of March, 1855, the trustees of the Topeka Association were directed to prepare a suitable landing for boats, and this they did at a point near the foot of Quincy street. Three or four boats came up the river as far as Topeka in 1855, and one of them went to Manhattan. Their arrival was always heralded with satisfaction, and sometimes when their whistles were heard a few miles down the river, citizens would walk down and escort them up the muddy bank, dignified by the name of "levee." Whatever of freight Topeka could furnish was cheerfully given them, and occasionally in that and succeeding years persons took passage for Lawrence and Wyandotte.

The winter of 1855–6 was one of low temperature and deep snows. In the spring the creeks and the river filled their banks, carrying down from the plains the first floods the settlers had witnessed. The boatmen of the Missouri again sought a venture upon the waters of the Kaw, hopeful of a more profitable trade with the hated Yankees than the previous year afforded; their principles they abhorred, but not their dollars. The Yankees, on the other hand, had no affection for the Missouri boatmen, but had a high regard for their boats. During the spring and fore part of the summer, the stage of water was amply sufficient for boating, and at times there were as many as three boats lying by the foot of Kansas avenue and below, producing quite a business aspect. But there was very little trade offered them. The settlers were almost universally poor, and the merchants scarce able to buy more than a wagon load of merchandise at one purchase, and as for commodities to sell, the country had raised but a moiety of what they themselves needed.

In the spring of 1857, boats occasionally visited the town, bringing lumber, flour, meats, and other articles of prime necessity to the settlers, and conveying away such few commodities as they had to spare. In that year a quantity of corn was shipped by Dickey & Young, a mercantile firm conducting business on the east side of Kansas avenue, between Fifth street and Sixth avenue. This was the first shipment of corn from Topeka, or from Shawnee county, to our knowledge.

In 1857 the Territorial Legislature passed an act entitled "An act to encourage the navigation of the Kansas river," and incorporated two companies organized for the purpose of constructing and operating steamboats upon that stream. Nothing was done by either of those of any practical importance in that direction, however.

We take the following from the Topeka *Tribune* of June 2, 1859: "The arrivals and departures of steamers at our levee during the past week has already made quite an addition to the business appearance and prospects of our city. The Calona came up on Friday evening, the Otis Webb on Saturday, and the splendid little packet steamer, Col. Gus. Linn, landed on Saturday morning. All three of these boats brought large shipments of merchandise for the Topeka market, and the first and second named boats, which turned about at this place, took away fair cargoes of corn, etc. The officers of the Gus. Linn informed us that the river was in better condition for boating—less snags and sand bars—between Lawrence and Topeka, than between Lawrence and the mouth of the river."

On the 18th of April, 1861, the steamboat Kansas Valley arrived at Topeka from the Missouri river. This was the last boat that ascended the Kansas river to Topeka.

In 1862, the author issued a policy of marine insurance upon freight from the city of New York to Topeka, *via* New Orleans and the Mississippi, Missouri and Kansas rivers.

On the 25th of February, 1864, the State Legislature, by an act, declared the Kansas river not to be a navigable stream, and provided in the act that any duly incorporated railroad company might dam it. So the river remains legislatively closed to navigation, though it is not closed from insufficiency of water, at most seasons of the year. Many streams of no greater volume of water are of important commercial advantage, and were it not for the greater advantages of railroads, undoubtedly many little steamboats would at this time be agitating its waters.

The act of the Legislature declaring it not to be a navigable stream, was received with popular discontent at Topeka. The strange procedure of incorporating so important a provision in legislation upon the subject of railroads, and giving railroad companies the right, in common with that of building bridges, to build dams also, suggested the thought that, with a little craft, some locality further down the stream had sought to promote its aspirations, not only as a manufacturing city, but also to make itself the head of navigation.

Statements have been published to the effect that a boat was run between Lawrence and Topeka in 1865, by Capt. Hensley, of Leavenworth, but we are quite sure that no boat reached Topeka in that year.

Historically, the "Konzos" river is a most noble stream, and the United States, in its early treaties with the Indians, was always careful to reserve the right of navigation upon it.

ACQUISITION OF TITLE.

HAVING possession of the ground, the next step for the association to take was to acquire title to it. By the terms of a treaty concluded at Upper Sandusky, Ohio, on the 17th day of March, 1842, between the United States and the Wyandotte nation of Indians, and as modified on the 31st day of January, 1854, the privilege was reserved to Isaiah Walker and thirty-four other named individuals of the nation, to select each a tract of six hundred and forty acres of the public domain lying west of the States of Missouri and Iowa, and certificates—popularly known as "land floats"—were issued to them, stipulating that upon such selection by the reservee, his heirs or legally appointed attorney, being made, the rights of patents should immediately attach to such selected tract, as nearly as the smallest subdivisions of the land system would permit, when the country should come to be surveyed. Little use was made of these floats till the period of the settlement of Kansas, but then they were particularly sought for, as available for securing town sites much sooner than could be done otherwise.

On the 26th of April, 1855, the Topeka Association took measures to purchase one of these floats, and on the 18th of the succeeding November it authorized its board of trustees, acting in conjunction with its president, to purchase one of them. On the 9th of February, 1856, a contract of sale of No. 20 of this series of floats was executed by Isaiah Walker, for the benefit of the association. On the 25th of August, 1856, the association having under consideration the providing of money with which to pay for the float, which in the contract with Isaiah Walker had been named at $1,200, the following resolution was adopted:

> *Resolved*, That the board of trustees, in conjunction with two members of the association, select from out of the present city site the amount of one full section of land, or 640 acres, upon which to locate a Wyandotte land-warrant of the above number of acres, and that the trustees, in conjunction with the aforesaid committee, to which shall be added the party interested in the sale, be further instructed to proceed forthwith to bargain for sale, on the best possible terms for the association, the residue of the present city site, the proceeds of which, or a sufficient amount thereof, to be expended in the purchase of said warrant.

Under these instructions, the trustees selected section 31, of town 11, of range 16, to locate under the float, and sold the northwest quarter of that section and the northeast quarter of section 6, in town 12, of range 16, the former to F. L. Crane and the latter to John Ritchie, each for the sum of $400. The southwest quarter of section 32, upon which was C. K. Holliday's cabin under the surveys, was found to be held by another claimant living on the east half, whose rights it was thought might be found superior to his for that half of the quarter-section, and therefore no attempt was made to hold it for the benefit of the town company. Holliday might however have taken, in connection with the west half of the southwest quarter of section 32, the east half of the southeast quarter of section 31, under his preëmption rights, but in case of his doing so the float would have to be carried eighty rods further west than was desirable, or the quantity of land secured under it restricted to 560 acres. Under these circumstances, the west half of the southwest quarter of section 32, and that part of the east half of the southeast quarter of section 31 which lays east of Monroe street, was sold to Holliday for $500, and of the $1,300 realized from those sales $1,200 was paid to Isaiah Walker for the float.

The town association, under an arrangement previously stated, had a right to hold these lands by paying the costs of preëmption, but it had no money even to pay for the 640 acres, and therefore thought it wise to waive that right for money with which to pay for the float.

The other lands to the south and to the west, which had been held for the town company, were preëmpted by their several occupants for their own account, though all were permitted their extra town share for holding, as though the company had availed itself of its full rights. The subject of receiving final title from Isaiah Walker, and of giving title to whom the town lots had been apportioned, was duly considered. At first it had been expected that this work would be performed by the board of trustees, but for manifestly good reasons it was deemed better it should be done by a single individual, and on the 13th day of November, 1855, the association directed that it should be done by its president, in the character of special trustee for the Topeka Association.

It was not till the 14th of February, 1859, that the patent was issued. On the 1st day of July of that year, Isaiah Walker and his wife Mary, in solemn audience with the principal men of his nation, who declared him to be the person named in the patent and the rightful owner thereof, at the city of Wyandotte, duly executed and delivered to Cyrus K. Holliday, as special trustee of the Topeka Association, in behalf of its members, as their interests might appear, a warranty deed of all the land covered by his patent; that is to say, of all of section 31, of township 11, of range 16 east of the sixth principal meridian of the United States surveys in the State of Kansas, which conveyance so executed may be found duly on record in the office of the Register of Deeds of Shawnee county, as also the patent issued to Isaiah Walker.

During the long period of more than four and a half years from the settlement of the town to the final consummation of title, the people were never free of anxiety for the result, though hundreds of thousands of dollars had been expended in buildings and improvements, and titles or hope of titles to lands passed freely and for value, as though titles were perfect. Questions of faithfulness on the part of those holding trusts, and questions of law, were to some extent disturbing; but the event of greatest disturbance to the public equanimity, was the proceedings of a corporation created by the Territorial Legislature, under the title of "The Valley Town Company," a sort of privateering enterprise, the sole aim and object of which was to avail itself of any mistake that might be made by any one or more of the numerous individuals or companies founding towns in the early territorial period. During the pendency of certain questions of law as to the sufficiency of some of the methods of the Topeka Association to perfect its titles, this Valley Town Company claimed a lawful possession of it.

Under these circumstances, was issued and published in *The Kansas Tribune*, for the period of six months or more, the following notice:

VALLEY TOWN COMPANY.

NOTICE.

To all Whom it may Concern:

Public notice is hereby given that a portion of section 31, township 11 south, of range 16 east, part of the town site of Topeka, upon which a Wyandotte warrant was lain or located about two years ago, for the "use, benefit and behoof" of all persons interested by, or through, or under, the Topeka Association, has been wrongfully preëmpted in the name of the Valley Town Company.

Therefore, all persons are hereby warned to not purchase any lot or lots, or parcels of land, within the said section 31, the title to which is derived from, or comes through, the said Valley Town Company, as such title is wholly invalid, and will in no manner be regarded by us.

C. K. HOLLIDAY,
President of Topeka Association.

December 26, 1857.

F. L. CRANE,
T. G. THORNTON,
M. C. DICKEY,
L. G. CLEVELAND,
S. T. WALKLEY,
Trustees Topeka Association.

But the case was decided in favor of the association, and nothing further was heard of the Valley Town Company.

The sufficiency of the title to holders under conveyance from Cyrus K. Holliday, as special trustee of the Topeka Association, was fully argued in the District Court of Shawnee county, Charles K. Gilchrist, judge, in proceedings commenced the 27th day of June, 1866, under the title of *Royal Wiswell vs. Cyrus K. Holliday*, *et al.*, and in which it was held by the court that such conveyance was good in law. The case was taken to the Supreme Court by the plaintiff, on error, and the decision of the lower court there affirmed, at the January term, 1870.

On the 17th of September, 1869, and again on the 21st of March, 1870, Theodore B. Mills and Byron M. Smith procured from Isaiah Walker, for a nominal consideration, quit-claim deeds of the said section 31, but no efforts have at any time been made to establish title as against those holding under and from the Topeka Association, and the procurement of such deeds has always been popularly regarded as a device to extort money from rightful owners.

BESTOWAL OF TITLE.

THE title being perfected, and the grounds surveyed and platted, it only remained for the Topeka Association to bestow upon the shareholders or their assigns, and upon those to whom it had donated grounds, title in severalty as their interests might appear, and the purposes of its organization were accomplished.

As allotments, or drawings, were from time to time made to the shares by the board of trustees, it issued to the shareholders certificates in the form following, not, of course, as an actual conveyance of title, for the association at that time had none to convey, but simply as an indication of an equitable right to title in the holder:

> This certifies that M. C. Dickey is owner of lots Nos. 110 and 112, on Kansas avenue, of the Topeka Association.
>
> May 28, 1856.
>
> F. L. Crane,
> Thos. G. Thornton,
> J. E. Greenwood,
> L. G. Cleveland,
> *Trustees.*

A custom of assigning these certificates for value soon grew up, however, and then an informal conveyance in the nature of a quit-claim deed, with an appended note, directed to the special trustee, requesting that final deed might issue to the person named in the instrument. At length the note of request was dropped, and the formal quit-claim deed was adopted, though generally without jointure by the wife of a married man, or certificate of acknowledgment.

A member of the association conceived the importance of having these conveyances recorded, and as it would have been regarded as treason to the Free-State cause to have had them recorded in the county office at Tecumseh, even if admissible to public record, he gave notice that, to the end that a confusion of rights to titles might not arise, and that the trustees might be enabled to know the course of justice in each particular case, he would keep a record of all such transfers as might be made, and hence grew up the system of books of record now remaining in the office of the Register of Deeds, known as the "Topeka land records." The records were legalized by the Territorial Legislature in 1858, as follows:

CH. 91, PRIVATE LAWS 1858.

SECTION 1. That the books of registry of transfer of lots in the city of Topeka, as kept by F. W. Giles, be and the same are hereby legalized, and shall be evidence in all courts of law or equity in the transfer of title in said city of Topeka; and it shall be the duty of all persons to have the transfers of title registered in the said registry until such time as the fee simple of said lots can be obtained from the United States or others, when the same shall be recorded in the records of the office of the county in which the city of Topeka is situated, and the said books there filed.

SEC. 2. No preference shall be given to any person by reason of prior registry in said books of record up to this time, when two or more persons may have a deed to the same lot, but those the oldest in date shall take precedence.

SEC. 3. This act shall take effect and be in force from and after its passage.

Approved Feb. 9, 1858.

There appears upon the public records of the county an order by the Board of Commissioners, under date of January 21, 1860, largely personal in its nature, but deemed to be of some public importance, and therefore given. The order referred to reads: "That the County Attorney be and is hereby authorized to institute an action against F. W. Giles, late Register of Deeds of Shawnee county, for the recovery of any books of record which contain any records of deeds which are required by law to be kept or filed with the Register of Deeds of the county of Shawnee, and which the said F. W. Giles retains in his possession, and refuses to deliver to his legal successor in office."

Upon retiring from the office of County Clerk, *ex officio* Register of Deeds, which he held at the time of the passage of the foregoing act, the author of these "Topeka land records" had taken them with him, as their only proper custodian, and hence the procedure against him. To avoid the trouble of litigation, he permitted them to go into the custody of the public officers of the county.

These books of record contain no matter but records of the transfer of lots of land lying within the city of Topeka, but are under the care and jurisdiction of the Register of Deeds for Shawnee county, as other records. They have been of great value to the special trustee in making final deeds.

The field being clear for the final act of the Topeka Association, there appears under date of September 24, 1859, and for more than a year thereafter, the following notice in the *Kansas State Record*, published at Topeka:

TOPEKA ASSOCIATION—TITLES TO PROPERTY.

On and after Monday, the 26th instant, the Topeka Association will grant final conveyances to all persons legally entitled to such conveyances, by or through the legitimate action of the association. Persons can apply personally, by letter, or by attorney, furnishing at the same time to the satisfaction of the board of trustees proof of their right to title. A final assessment, to meet the remaining liabilities of the association, has been levied in the following manner, to wit: Three dollars for a deed of one number, and fifty cents additional for each additional number. Thus, for example, for a deed of one number, a prepayment of three dollars will be required; for a deed of three numbers, four dollars, and for a deed of a full share, of twenty-seven numbers, sixteen dollars, etc. In addition, there will be the usual fee of fifty cents for taking acknowledgment.

ESPECIAL NOTICE.

The following assessments have hitherto been made upon each share: January 7, 1855, $1; March 19, 1855, $1.50; May 7, 1855, $2; July 5, 1855, $5; June, 1856, $20. Total, $29.50.

A portion of the above-named taxes remains unpaid. No conveyance will be made for any share until all assessments are fully paid up.

All communications touching the business of the association addressed to the undersigned will meet with prompt attention.

TOPEKA, Sept. 24, 1859.

C. K. HOLLIDAY,
President, and Special Trustee Topeka Association.

On the 13th of November, 1856, the Topeka Association, thinking its work of distributing lots to be substantially done, took into consideration the lots that remained, and resolved "that property still in the hands of the association, or questionable, should go towards canceling the indebtedness."

At the time of this writing, there had not been any official statement published to the shareholders in the Topeka Association, of the precise manner in which all the ground purchased by it had been distributed, and hence, quite naturally, there prevailed an apprehension that there might still be undivided lands in which they had an interest.

The author has felt that the subject of the Topeka Association was the most important of any in his book, and regrets that he cannot give in detail more of its history, for it would afford material of enduring interest.

To discover the precise manner in which all the land bought by the Topeka Association had been disposed of by its officers charged with that duty, the author has devoted himself for weeks of time. He has carefully studied the records of the association, and special memoranda furnished to him many years ago by Dr. F. L. Crane, as chairman of the board of trustees. He has had repeated consultations with the special trustee and access to his personal memoranda in regard to the subject, and has reviewed a large amount of memoranda kept by himself as a personal observer of events under consideration; and of the various forms in which he has attempted to state the problem of distribution of titles, submits the following as, in his estimation, the most likely to be satisfactory to those who may feel themselves interested. Not claiming for its results absolute accuracy, but as the nearest to which it is possible for him to attain, he hopes that it may be conclusive and final upon the subject.

The quantity of land purchased by the Topeka Association was, in section 31, 621.80 acres, and in the southeast fractional quarter of section 30, 62.21 acres, a total of 684 acres.

I will treat first of the possible number of lots, according to the town plat, that could be in section 31. Its dimensions are, from north to south, 5,280 feet, and its average breadth from east to west, 5,129.85 feet, according to the government surveys. Counting from the west line of Monroe street to the west line of Clay street, there are appropriated nine streets and three avenues, an aggregate of 1,290 feet of breadth, which, deducted from the breadth of section 31, as given, leaves 3,840 feet available for division into blocks. All blocks are of the uniform size of 320 feet from east to west, by 450 feet from north to south; therefore we have just twelve blocks from east to west. Counting from the south line of First avenue to the south line of Eleventh street, we have seven streets and three avenues, of a united breadth of 950 feet, which deducted from the length of section 31, as stated, leaves 4,330 feet available for division into blocks, which is equivalent to nine and sixty-two hundredths blocks, each of 450 feet, and these multiplied by the twelve blocks counting from east to west, gives for the result 115.54 blocks in section 31. Twenty-four of these blocks have 39 lots each, yielding 936 lots, while 91.44 of blocks have 36 lots each, yielding an aggregate of

3,292 lots, and thus a total of 4,228 lots in section 31. In the fractional southeast quarter of section 30, there were platted and made available to the association, as may be seen by reference to the plat, about five blocks, yielding 180 lots, which number added to the 4,228 lots before found, gives a grand total of 4,408 lots as the greatest possible number obtainable on the ground purchased by the association, excepting the four blocks in the last named tract which were not platted into lots, but were donated for various purposes in blocks.

Now let us see what became of these 4,408 lots, mathematically possible upon the grounds purchased. On the 25th of August, 1856, the association, then fully informed as to the Government surveys, and knowing perfectly the relation that the Government lines bore to the town plat, declared that Monroe street constituted the eastern boundary of the city. By that action there resulted, as it was fully intended should, for reasons otherwheres explained, the yielding of a tract equal to eight blocks of thirty-six lots each, to its special trustee. These 288 lots I deduct from the grand total as found, and also 288 other lots, as contained within the two public squares—Capitol square and Bethany square—together making 576 lots, and leaving 3,832 lots available for distribution. Twenty-eight award shares took 40 lots each, 1,120; seventy-two shares took 27 lots each, 1,994. There were donated to individuals and corporations, according to a list of names and lots furnished to the author by Dr. Crane, at the time president of the board of trustees, 618 lots. An extra share of 27 lots was made up of lots remaining for Rev. S. Y. Lum. Twenty-three lots were paid to Gov. Shannon and his partner for most valuable services, in defending the rights of the association against the assumptions of the "Valley Town Company," in accordance with a resolution of the association, passed on the 18th of November, 1856; and forty-one others, mostly on the extreme western borders of the city, which remained undisposed of on the ever memorable day in Topeka's history, the 5th of November, 1861, were paid to Judge Saunders, W. Johnson, and others, for services in conducting the campaign of election of the State capital, and without which different results might possibly have obtained. A triangular piece, equal to about ten lots, was conveyed to Thomas G. Thornton, lying north of First and east of Kansas avenues, to satisfy a small indebtedness of the association to him, and a similar tract lying east of Topeka avenue and south of Twelfth street, was conveyed to the city, to be reserved as a public park. Two other tracts of a similar character remain in the hands of the trustees, on the west line of the original plat. If the four tracts named be considered equal to thirty-six lots, then the whole number that have been enumerated amount to 3,804 lots, and shows an apparent residue of twenty-eight lots undisposed of. To offset against this apparent residue, the fact may be taken into account that there were a considerable number of fractional lots, too small to have a salable value, on the north, the west and the east boundaries, and it has been said that there is a deficiency in the Government surveys, as indicated by the more exact measurements for determining the position of streets and lots, by the city engineers.

The mathematical process here adopted is the most exacting against the officers of the town company of any that could be adopted, and it shows as possible, a number of lots in excess of the number that the writer has been able to find upon any published plat.

MARCH OF EVENTS, 1854 to 1862.

TOWARDS the close of March, 1855, a stranger appeared in the settlement, and proposed to establish among them a "store," if reasonable inducements in the way of grounds upon which to build were donated by the Topeka Association. It was generally thought that a store was a necessary institution in cities, and that Topeka had better have one; and therefore, after due deliberation, lots Nos. 55, 57, 59, by the side of the path leading back from the river, and now popularly known as Kansas avenue, were donated to Mr. Jones—Mr. J. T. Jones, from Missouri—on which to build a store. The writer, at the date of this important event, was on a journey to Chicago, and when a few weeks afterwards he returned, and for the first time looked upon the important accession of Mr. Jones' store, in the locality of his future home, it were idle to say his emotions were not somewhat stifling.

Mr. Jones supplied himself with a wagon-load of groceries from Westport Landing, a place now known as Kansas City, and Topeka assumed commercial airs. He continued in business for a few months, and then sold his stock in trade, his real estate and good-will, to Mr. Jacob Willetts, who conducted a profitable trade there for some years. The citizens bought molasses, side-meat and corn meal, paying, presumably, in their chief commodity, town lots; while their neighbors on the Kaw Reservation bought whisky, and paid in ponies. The rude little shake-shanty remained there, twisted and broken in decay, till the first of November, 1885, when a son — or a grandson, may be — of Ethiopia bore it away.

In the summer of 1855 Messrs. J. C. Gordon and Asaph Allen established themselves in a mercantile business at No. 103 Kansas avenue, under the style of Gordon & Allen, and thereafter Topekans could buy at home what their circumstances demanded.

About the first of January, 1856, Mr. Walter Oakley arrived in Topeka, and being pleased with the prospects of the place, proposed to erect a hotel, if suitable encouragement was made to him by the Topeka Association. On the 7th of the month action by the association was taken, offering Mr. Oakley a city interest if he would proceed at once to the contemplated work, and have it finished for the reception of guests by the time in the spring when immigration might be expected. Negotiations were concluded upon these terms, the house to be located on the northeast corner of Kansas avenue and Fifth street, to be two stories, and finished in a good and convenient manner for hotel purposes. The weather soon after became very cold and stormy, so that the foundation of the building had to be prepared after removing at least a foot of snow, and cutting through frozen ground for a like depth. The frame of the building was of hewn cottonwood, even to the studding of partitions, for the saw-mill was generally out of order. As no lath could be had, the expedient was adopted of filling with concrete between the studding, and laying the plastering upon that. A flat roof was put upon the building, and coated with some coal-tar and sand preparation, which, like many subsequent works of a similar character, proved useless for the purpose designed, and another story was added, with a shingle roof. This was the first three-story building, and the first in many respects which bore semblance to houses of civilized life. It received the name "Topeka House," and long served a valuable purpose as a hotel. It was finally destroyed by fire, in the spring of 1870. During the fourteen years of its existence, its rooms witnessed many events of interest to Topeka, and some of the most corrupting political influence that Kansas has been cursed with. We will not charge these sins upon the house—it is doubtful whether any like donation of lots brought greater advantage to the town; we will rather say, peace to its ashes, remembering it as a great good in the past.

In the fall of 1856, Enoch Chase, who had kept the Pioneer Hotel during the previous summer and winter, commenced the erection of a three-story building on lots 83 and 85 Sixth avenue east. It was finished for occupancy as a hotel in the following year, and for several years thereafter, under the management of its projector, constituted the prosperous and popular resort known as the Chase House.

In the same season, Jeremiah Murphy and I. E. Perley commenced the erection of a fine brick building, for mercantile purposes, on the southwest corner of Kansas avenue and Fifth street. It was finished in the following year, and for some years occupied by those gentlemen and associates as a dry goods house.

M. K. Smith built a store on lot 104 Sixth avenue east. The Methodist Episcopal and Congregational churches commenced the erection of houses of worship. Mr. Garvey, Dr. Crane and others advanced various business houses. A block of three-story business houses, afterwards known as the Ritchie block, was commenced on the southeast corner of Kansas and Sixth avenues, and a number of dwelling houses added to the supply for families.

Down to the summer of 1856, Topeka had drawn her supplies almost entirely from Kansas City and Westport—a few from St. Joseph. The merchants of the latter place were far less obnoxious in expressing their political sentiments than at Kansas City; but being somewhat more distant and less accessible, on account of the Missouri river, they enjoyed less Topeka trade than they otherwise would. Two or three wagons were quite sufficient to all Topeka's commercial transactions in that day; its only freight outward consisted of a few hides and some peltries. Those towns had now become so belligerent that intercourse with them was extremely repugnant to the Free-State people, but it was continued as an apparent necessity, till it could no longer be done with safety to the property or lives of those engaged in it.

Mr. John W. Farnsworth employed a man and valuable team in transporting merchandise from those places to Topeka. On the 4th of August his teamster purchased a load at Westport, which was paid for in coin, the only currency in use, and left the town late in the afternoon, on his return to Topeka. When the shades of evening had come on, he was stopped in the highway by a band of mounted and armed Missourians, who, under threats of death at resistance, took from him his fine team, wagon and merchandise, and turned them back to Westport, giving the teamster significant warning that he could never go to that place but once more, and that he had better postpone that visit to the latest possible day. It is unnecessary to say that he understood the spirit of the men and of the times, and made his way to Topeka as soon as he could, to lay the facts of the robbery before his employer.

This transaction effectually imposed non-intercourse between Topeka and Missouri for purposes of trade. To Leavenworth, then, was the only recourse, and the repetition of crimes under similar circumstances to those above related, spoke plainly enough of the danger in that direction. Cut off from intercourse with the East by way of the Missouri river, and virtually refused the necessaries of life by purchase in Missouri, the people had no recourse but to adopt the course of war in the enemy's country. The history of Kansas during the year 1856 is too well known to require further allusion to the situation of the Free-State settlers, as a justification of the course adopted at Topeka as well as at other places. They had not only been kept from the production of subsistence, by the necessity of guarding their families and houses, but were barred from receiving supplies from other sources.

In this emergency a company was organized to secure supplies by force from neighboring localities peopled by Pro-Slavery men. Chiefly under the leadership of Col. John Ritchie, and Capt. Whipple, who was with John Brown at Harper's Ferry, raids were made upon Oskaloosa, Indianola and Tecumseh, though little or nothing was taken from the latter place. The most considerable quantity of supplies was taken at Oskaloosa, and a degree of resistance was made there to the raiders, but no one was killed. A train was taken along, with which the commodities captured were brought to Topeka. A depot was established in the basement of Constitution Hall, whence provisions, groceries, clothing, etc., were distributed to such as were in need, and in this way many were kept from suffering, till communication could be established with Iowa and the East through Nebraska. A participant in those events, looking back upon them from this day, sees them in their true character of warfare, scarcely realized then.

The progress of Topeka, as of all other Free-State towns in Kansas, was slight in 1856. We have spoken of a few substantial improvements, but generally there was gloom brooding over Topeka that year—gloom tempered with desperation. It was the turning period in the political and social destinies of Kansas, the darkest feature of the scene being the manifestation of the power of the General Government to perpetrate a crime against the Free-State men—against the cause of civil liberty and against humanity. There was probably no increase in the population of Topeka, if indeed there was of Free-State population in the Territory, in that year.

In the spring of 1857 there was very slight immigration from the slave States into Kansas, while from the free States the immigration was plainly on the increase. These influences showed their effect upon the rival towns, and upon Topeka in a marked degree. Later in the season sales of public lands took place, and these invited large numbers of Eastern men, well supplied with coin for their purchase. These men congregated at Leavenworth, Atchison, St. Joseph, and other river towns. The sales were conducted in great unfairness, it was said, having the effect to secure to a few favored purchasers large quantities of land, and leaving large numbers of men with their coin unexpended. They were loth to go back to the Eastern States without making an investment in Kansas, for it was now apparent to all careful observers of the signs of the times, that Kansas would be a free State. As there were no farm lands that could be bought, the settlers not having "proved up" and secured titles, they must of necessity purchase town lots where they could. Topeka having been peculiarly fortunate in securing title in advance of most other towns, was in condition to offer exceptional advantages to land buyers, and in the month of April a trade in town lots began which was continued till autumn with great vigor; in fact such a rise in real estate as in six weeks took place at Topeka has seldom occurred outside of a diamond field. Little choice of lots was manifested —anything that could be shown upon the nice lithographic plat of the town was salable. The writer well remembers, as he came one morning to town from his suburban residence on the commanding uplands south of the Shunganunga, of meeting his usually staid friend, Dr. S. E. Martin, somewhere on the prairie between Fifth street and Eighth avenue, his countenance all radiant with smiles, and holding a quantity of yellow buttons in his palms, which he declared to be gold coins of the United States; these he desired to exchange for a lot or lots, or piece or parcel of our real estate in Topeka! A good deal abashed by so peremptory a challenge, as well as elated by the very novel compliment paid to our landed estates, we made such excuses as we might, and retired to meditation upon the stupendous fact, then for the first time realized, that we had really an interest, measurable in U. S. coins, in the soil of Kansas. At the close of the first week of the war between the power of gold and the power of poverty, prices had so advanced that a lot measuring 80 by 130 feet, on the northwest corner of Kansas and Sixth avenues, was sold for $1,000. It was seldom that one selling property could point with any degree of certainty to its boundaries; not even the corners of streets were marked by anything more than a pin as large as a man's finger, standing an inch or two above the ground, in a boundless expanse of waving grass. The custom was to point out the street and lot upon the attractive lithograph plat of the "City of Topeka," and to the somewhat embarrassing question that strangers would ask as to the direction and distance from the Topeka House, the response would be given in an air of offended dignity, "Why right here—right out there on the prairie."

This speculative mania seized upon the Southerners and residents of Pro-Slavery towns, who, perceiving that the tables were rapidly turning upon them, and feeling that, whatever might be their political loss, their gold should win, freely invested in the lots of Free-State towns. Actuated by these palpable signs of coming events, men who had invested in Topeka's Pro-Slavery rival, Tecumseh, joined the crowd of greedy buyers at Topeka, and made large investments.

A real estate office was kept by Asaph Allen and Harris Strattan, at the Topeka House. This was the first real estate firm in Topeka, and they realized so handsomely from their commissions, and speculations on private account, that when the spasm passed away at Topeka, they were intent on renewing the excitement otherwheres. Surveying the field for enterprise with some secrecy, they determined upon founding a town on the banks of the Missouri river. In the autumn they gathered such loanable gold as the ebbing tide had left in Topeka, and as an offer of five per cent. per month would bring them, and went to new fields of glory in Doniphan county, where they founded the town of Doniphan, and whither in succeeding times hapless Topekans made pilgrimages for "five per cents." in vain.

The year 1857 must be remembered as the first of a speculative movement in real estate in Topeka. It gave great confidence to the founders and settlers in the place, and gave them, too, a very important accession of means available to the promotion of personal and family comforts.

It was of great advantage to the town in placing proprietary interests in men who, returning East, would exercise their influence in directing emigration to Topeka.

With the passing away of 1857 passed away the political troubles of Kansas, and there dawned upon the Territory, as upon the Free-State towns therein, a new life.

With the coming of 1858 there came, not only to Kansas but to the country at large, yea, to the cause of human freedom, the exultation of hope triumphant from weary waiting.

While the men who had from 1854 watched and participated in the events of Kansas had never, save for a few months in 1856 possibly, doubted her ultimate coming forth from the entangling web that the Pro-Slavery party of the country had, by stealth and fraud, woven about her, it had not till 1858 been apparent to the world that Kansas must and surely would be free. In 1854, '55 and '56 had been the strife of craft and crime; in 1857 the strife at the ballot-box. In the result were no uncertainties of

State policy. Kansas was FREE, and the spirit of freedom everywhere laid off its fears and came forth with rejoicings—the first time in a century's contest with the spirit of slavery in America.

The immigration of 1858 came fully realizing that Kansas was to be a free State, and its character was determined by this fact. Coming hence exclusively from the free States, it avoided contact with Pro-Slavery communities and towns, and sought those constituted of Free-State people. In this way Topeka, in common with other prominent Free-State towns, was favored with a large and valuable accession to its population and its wealth, while its particular rival, Tecumseh, was practically avoided.

There was a large immigration from the Eastern States and from the principal towns of Kansas to the Pike's Peak gold fields in 1859, and Topeka merchants made considerable effort to secure trade in outfitting goods. There were thirteen houses dealing in various classes of merchandise in Topeka at that time. About one hundred buildings were constructed in that year, and the increase of material wealth, inclusive of enlarged stocks of merchandise, was estimated to be $100,000; the population estimated to be 1,200 persons.

Two acts of importance to Topeka were passed by the Congress of the United States in the month of April, 1860. One of these was an act empowering the half-breed Kaws, then occupying under treaty stipulations "the mile strip" on the north side of the Kansas river, opposite to Topeka, to sell their reservation; and the other, the specification in the bill granting lands to the Territory for railroad purposes, of a road from Topeka *via* Council Grove, to the southwest line of the State, in the direction of Santa Fé. Again, in the same month the work of building the south half of the Episcopal Female Seminary edifice, on Topeka avenue, was commenced—a work of importance, in that it augmented the capabilities of the institution, advertised the educational facilities of the town, and gave additional evidence of its permanence as a Topeka institution, of which there had been a popular doubt.

The discoveries of gold in the vicinity of Pike's Peak, on the western border of Kansas Territory, had occasioned a large immigration to that locality, and it was deemed of great importance to Eastern Kansas that better facilities of travel should be opened up to that region. To that end a contribution of funds was taken among the citizens of Topeka, in April, 1861, for constructing a wagon road by the Smoky Hill route to Pike's Peak; and subsequently, in the same year, the city of Topeka paid $500 towards the expenses of that enterprise—the first money paid by the city for works of a public nature. Leavenworth and other localities contributed liberally to the same, and an important work was done.

BRIDGING THE KAW.

THE founders of Topeka were not of a class of people to be satisfied with the primitive mode of crossing streams, but at once began devising means for the erection of substantial bridges. The town of Tecumseh had, in 1855, secured the first charter for a company to bridge the Kansas river, under the title of "Kaw River Bridge Company," and had exclusive rights of bridging that stream at any point within five miles of that village. When the existence of this charter came to be known at Topeka, some apprehensions existed that its purpose was not only to facilitate the erection of a bridge at Tecumseh, but also to prevent the erection of one at Topeka, under the plea that the ground was covered by the five-mile limitation; and there can be little doubt that such was the intention of the Legislature, in its zeal to promote the prosperity of Pro-Slavery Tecumseh, as against Free-State Topeka.

On the 14th of February, 1857, a charter was obtained for a bridge to be built at Topeka—corporators, F. L. Crane, Thomas G. Thornton, M. C. Dickey, S. F. Walkley and L. G. Cleveland, with a capital of one hundred thousand dollars. Its rights were limited to the "building and maintaining of a bridge across the Kansas river at any point upon said river not less than five miles nor more than ten miles above the village of Tecumseh." If by, "above the village," was meant, above by the course of the river, all was obtained in that direction that was desired, and Topekans rested satisfied with the best they could get. The idea of a bridge that should require a hundred thousand dollars in its construction, however, had a very chilling effect upon Topeka's capitalists of that day. Indeed, there was no expectation of building a bridge without assistance from abroad.

A bridge was felt to be the most valuable acquisition in advancing the growth of the town of any that could be reasonably hoped for, and the possible modes of obtaining one was a frequent theme of discussion with the corporators and citizens, during the summer of 1857, without yielding a plan that seemed practical. Finally, however, a new element appeared, and served to at once solve the problem. On the 21st of November, 1857, there appeared in the *Kansas Tribune* the following notice:

> BRIDGE MEETING.
>
> A meeting of the trustees and stockholders of the Topeka Bridge Company will be held at the office of Moore & Hill, this (Saturday) evening, at 6:30 o'clock. A general attendance is desired, as a new and important proposition has been made to the company for the construction of the bridge, which is to be considered.

At the meeting, the company listened to proposals of Messrs. Jones, Kidney & Co., strangers, who were possessed of some engineering skill, sufficient at least to build a cheap bridge, which was exactly the commodity Topeka was prepared to buy. The citizens had not been able to imagine a structure that could be erected at a less cost than from $30,000 to $50,000 that would answer their purpose, but were greatly surprised, as well as pleased, to hear from Messrs. Jones, Kidney & Co. that they would erect a passable bridge for $10,000—the distance from shore to shore being nearly one thousand feet.

The emergency was great, for Tecumseh was already moving for a bridge at that place, and a bridge across the Kaw was supposed to be the work, above all others, that would command commercial greatness to the happy town that might first possess one.

Messrs. Jones and Kidney had made an examination of the river bed, and in the same afternoon had drawn a plan and specifications, which they exhibited, and declared to be altogether practicable and proper for a bridge across the Kaw. The plan was to drive oak piling, in sections, these to be strengthened by diagonal braces nailed upon each side, the braces being of cottonwood planks, two inches thick and six inches wide. Upon the sections was to be placed a 12x12 oak cap, with a spike of inch iron passing through the cap into the head of each pile; then cottonwood stringers from pier to pier, and planks of the same material placed loosely upon them. This plan was eminently suited to conditions. There was the river, an important factor in the enterprise, placid and gentle as a lamb. Oak trees were growing about the creeks near by, the lands were not preëmpted, and squatter laws knew nothing of trespass. The Topeka Mill Company had saws waiting to make themselves useful. There was an abundance of cottonwood trees on the other side of the river, which the friendly half-breeds were anxious to sell, and the mill company would do work for the bridge company on credit. The only material that would have to be paid for was a small quantity of iron, and this the contractors thought they could buy—fifty dollars worth, or so—on credit at Kansas City, upon having proper letters from the bridge company.

So a contract was concluded with Messrs. Jones, Kidney & Co., conditioned that the bridge should be completed by the 1st of July, 1858. The price of town lots rose rapidly.

The contractors exercised great vigilance, and the winter proving favorable, they got along with their work with more than anticipated rapidity. On the first day of May, two months in advance of stipulated date, the bridge was completed from shore to shore, 925 feet in length—the first that ever spanned the Kansas river. The exultations of Topekans upon the accomplishment of the enterprise were very great. As an indication of their feeling, an extract is appended from an editorial in the *Kansas Tribune* of May 8, 1858, E. G. Ross editor:

> The completion of the bridge across the Kaw river at this place has opened one of the greatest thoroughfares of the West. The tide of travel across the river at this point is increasing daily and hourly, and at the present rates will soon become a volume of moving humanity, unprecedented in all previous migratory movements.

Besides the local travel for miles up and down the river, which is itself very considerable, this is the point of crossing for all the trains for Southern and Southwestern Kansas, New Mexico, Arizona, California, and much of the travel to Utah and Oregon. Several trains have already crossed going to and coming from Santa Fé, and also going to California. Many of them have herds of cattle, which it is very troublesome and expensive, as well as dangerous, to ferry over such a stream as the Kaw, with its swift current and shifting bed. The bridge is 900 feet long, 16 feet wide, and 20 emigrant teams or 250 head of cattle can pass upon it at the same time with safety and convenience, so that not a moment of time is necessarily lost. With such a convenience as this for crossing, emigrants to all parts of the South and West will not be long in finding their way hither, judging, and correctly too, that a few miles of extra travel to such a perfectly safe and speedy crossing, is cheaper than the risk to their teams and goods on a frail boat liable at any moment to the hidden dangers of this capricious stream.

The bridge was in the same locality as the beautiful iron one that has succeeded it, and some of its piling may yet be seen leaning in the sand of the river bed. It was provided with a draw of the turntable order, one hundred feet in length, for the convenience of the passing fleet of commercial steamers, vividly pictured upon the minds of the first settlers, as one of the good things to come.

As the freighters' trains came emerging from the timber on the north, over the bridge and up Kansas avenue, displaying canvas enough on their wagon bows to sail a man of war, teamsters cracking their heavy whips over the long, swaying teams of oxen, and ejaculating their hoarse commands—gee, haw, Topekans gazed upon the scene, with anticipations of coming commercial greatness, in the happiest of moods.

The officers of the bridge company were: F. L. Crane, president; F. W. Giles, treasurer; and J. Fin. Hill, secretary.

Among the financial expedients resorted to in prosecution of this enterprise, was the issuance of orders upon the treasurer, in the following form:

No. 77. TERRITORY OF KANSAS. $\$20.\frac{00}{100}$.

TOPEKA BRIDGE CO.

F. W. GILES, *Treasurer:*
Pay to Order of Jones, Kidney & Co., TWENTY DOLLARS, *For Value Received.*
Dated, Topeka, February 18, 1858.
F. L. CRANE, *President.*
J. FIN. HILL, *Secretary.*

The foregoing "bridge scrip" was issued to the amount of about $7,000, and though the treasurer has no recollection of ever having so much as $500 of bridge funds in his possession all told, the scrip was all paid, and, as a matter of fact, constituted the first issue of "credit currency" ever used in Topeka, or probably in Kansas. The exigencies of its issue were about as commanding upon the destinies of Topeka as were those of the issue of the "greenbacks" upon the destinies of the nation, and any refusal of them in payment for labor, board or materials used or needed on the bridge, would have been treason to the cause dearest to the hearts of the little community. This redeemed scrip is carefully preserved, and any desiring specimens as souvenirs can be supplied.

And now, having given the relation of Topeka's triumph in first spanning the Kansas river with a

Majors & Waddell, Government freighters; and emigrants with their trains and herds. Several Government trains had passed, and the great advantage of the bridge to the Government had been sufficiently apparent to justify an appeal for aid from that source to rebuild. Acting upon this thought, the president of the bridge company prepared and forwarded to J. B. Floyd, Secretary of War, a memorial upon the subject, praying that the sum of $20,000 might be recommended by him to Congress as a proper appropriation in that behalf. There were plenty of precedents for the Secretary in such a course, and the memorial could not have left him unconscious, if he had previously been, of the importance of the bridge to the Government as a military convenience; but we never heard of any attention by him to the subject, if any was taken. Perhaps a greater admirer of Free-State men in Kansas would have taken favorable action upon the petition. No further attempts were made, and the bridge enterprise, which had been so prominent a theme for Topekans, was abandoned. We know of no higher compliment to the spirit of enterprise and perseverance that actuated the founders of the town than their efforts in this regard.

The people of Tecumseh struggled hard to build their bridge, and had the south abutment completed, and the superstructure of iron ordered, when the Topeka bridge was opened to travel. Soon after this event a draft was made upon the Tecumseh company for a portion of the purchase-money, but it had become a good deal discouraged, and the draft had to be returned under protest.

As the fragments of the Topeka bridge floated past Tecumseh, satisfaction there at Topeka's disaster was undisguised. Subsequently Tecumseh renewed her efforts to build her bridge, but it was too heavy an undertaking; her people realized that Topeka was passing them in the race. The south abutment, a fine specimen of masonry, was removed in 1873 to make room for the Lawrence & Topeka Railroad.

The occasion for bridges over the Kansas river became from year to year more and more apparent, but after the sad experience of the people in bridging that river at Topeka, none of the towns along its course were inclined to engage in other enterprises of the kind. As the trade of Leavenworth extended largely into the southern counties, that city felt that bridging the river at several points was almost a necessity to her interests, and at the session of the Legislature of 1863, one of the representatives from Leavenworth county introduced a bill making an appropriation of $150,000 by the State to construct a bridge at each of the localities of De Soto, Lawrence and Topeka. The introduction of the bill afforded an opportunity to publish the commerce and growing importance of Leavenworth, but as an appropriation for the purposes it contemplated would be plainly in contravention of the State constitution, it was dropped. After the adjournment of the Legislature, the city of Atchison, feeling the importance to her commerce of man, at the time resident at Topeka, proposed that if the bridge company would sell to him its charter, he would construct the bridge, and to that end an arrangement was effected between them.

In February, 1869, Mr. Cook commenced the work of building abutments and piers, and under the vigorous management at once gave assurances that a very substantial structure was to be erected. A contract was entered into with the King Wrought-Iron Bridge Works, of Cleveland, Ohio, for the superstructure, and the city was greatly pleased at the prospects of having a bridge much better than any that had previously spanned the Kaw; and as, in virtue of her misfortunes in this direction in 1858, she felt that she ought to have.

The bridge was substantially completed that year, though not opened for public travel till the spring of 1870. A reasonable scale of tolls was established, and a large revenue was derived from them from the first. The great importance of free communication between the city and the northern portions of the county soon led to a discussion upon the subject of a purchase of the bridge by the county, and of making it a free bridge. On the 1st of January, 1871, a purchase was effected, the sum paid being $100,000, one-half by the county, and the balance by the city. It was known that this sum yielded a handsome profit to the builder, but a spirit of liberality was felt towards him on account of his boldness in what was at the first regarded as a measure of doubtful expediency as a financial venture, and the great public benefits that had accrued; so that little or no complaint was heard on this ground.

The bridge greatly promoted the growth of North Topeka, and from that time it has continued in a degree of prosperity commensurate with that of the city proper.

As the bridge approached completion, the pontoon bridge was brought to auction sale, the wire cable and boats going to Lecompton for use there—a contribution of discarded wealth by the new capital to the old, and a symbol of the triumph of the Free-State cause in Kansas. The pontoon had been a very profitable investment, yielding a revenue in some years equal to the original cost of the structure, it was said.

found. From there they proceeded to a store near the northwest corner of Fourth street, where they suspected that liquors were kept, and there they encountered a strong man—at this writing a popular hotel keeper in the city—who did not hesitate to face the mob. The leader at that moment was equal to any emergency in the kind of work he was doing, and if the people of Topeka had been selecting men for a pugilistic exhibition they could not have found two who were better fitted for the arena. The crowd was pressing into the store, there was no time for waste of words, and the two athletes seized, in frenzied struggle for the mastery. Blood soon flowed, and fatal consequences might have followed had not one of them, quite regardless of the rules of the ring, brought his antagonist to bay in a manner that it would be indelicate to relate.

Suits at law were brought against the rioters, and continued many years before the courts, but judgments were never secured. The value of liquors destroyed at the saloon was said to have been $1,500.

One of the contestants in the personal affray alluded to, and who was subsequently a member of the Wyandotte Constitutional Convention, exerted himself in that body for the adoption of a clause in the constitution authorizing the Legislature to enact a prohibitory liquor law. In popular sentiment, Topeka has always been most decidedly a temperance town.

THE COUNTY-SEAT QUESTION.

NO question so frequently creates animosities between communities in a newly-organized state as the location of the seat of county business. The first Territorial Legislature of Kansas, from this or some other cause, sought to relieve the future settlers from contentions upon this as well as questions more especially of a political character, by designating the locality where the county courts and county business should be conducted, appointing the county officers, both civil and judiciary, so far as that was within the province of the people of the Territory under the organic act.

In establishing and designating the boundaries of counties, in the Kansas river valley, it had made that stream the boundary line between counties to the north and to the south. This system was not agreeable to the settlers, for the reason that in such case it would have a tendency to carry the shire town back from the river, where the centers of business were likely to be, and in the case of Shawnee county, that fact gave occasion to a material change of boundaries.

The Legislature designated Tecumseh to be the bridge, and her great satisfaction thereat, we have to turn to scenes of grief.

The bridge was completed and opened to travel on the 1st of May, 1858. In the month of July, rains of unusual frequency and magnitude occurred throughout the region drained by the Kansas river, and a rise in that stream followed, unequaled, it was said, since the memorable flood of 1844. The Shunganunga had overflowed its banks at several points, a rapid stream was flowing over what now constitutes the county fair grounds, and reëntered the creek a mile to the east. The bottom east of Eighth and Tenth avenue crossings was flooded, and continued so for weeks afterwards. By the middle of July the water had attained a height, and was bearing down a mass of flood wood that caused deep apprehensions for the safety of the bridge. All day on the 16th, numbers of men were upon the bridge, working, in every way possible to them, to relieve it from the vast pressure of trees, stumps, roots and the general mass of drift that had caught upon the piers. And still the waters rose, so that by nightfall they were within three feet of the flooring of the bridge. Still torrents of rain came down from the clouds. The lower bottom was inundated back nearly to First avenue, and boats were used to get to the bridge, which stood a frail, trembling toy for the angry stream.

Consternation pervaded the minds of all—male and female, old and young—as they gazed helplessly upon the scene till the fall of night shut it from their view. Yet there were men, careless of personal safety, who would not—could not—cease their efforts to save the bridge from its threatened destruction. All through that terrific night, with a flood of rain pouring upon them, scarce less dense than that flowing furiously beneath them, men with ropes, picks, axes, levers, and by any device by which they could relieve the swaying structure from so much as a single pound of the immense pressure of drift bearing upon it, and guided in their perilous work by flickering lights borne by wives and daughters not less heroic than themselves, and by fitful lightning flashes, labored in frantic efforts to save this greatest hope and greatest pride of the little town. The night passed and no serious accident occurred.

At about nine o'clock on the morning of the 17th of July, the water and drift reached the flooring of the bridge; it was lifted from the piers, and in sections swung down the stream. Messrs. James A. Hickey and G. G. Gage, bolder or more reckless spirits than others, kept their positions upon the heaving, cracking wreck till too late to escape, and clinging to the *debris*, floated away in the general destruction. They skipped from timber to plank, and from plank to timber, till the fragments floated sufficiently near the shore to allow them to swim to *terra firma*.

At the time the bridge went away there were lying on the north bank of the stream, waiting for the water to subside so they could pass over, four regiments of U. S. troops with a baggage train, bound for Fort Union; extensive trains of Messrs. Russell, having a bridge at Topeka, sent delegates to this city for a conference with our people upon the subject. A few speeches were made and a few resolutions adopted upon the subject, but nothing of value came out of the conference.

From June, 1858, the primitive mode of crossing streams by boats was again necessarily resorted to at Topeka, and little was said about bridging the Kaw for the succeeding period of seven years. When, however, it was apparent that the Union Pacific Railroad would be constructed to Topeka, and all efforts to induce its construction on the south side of the river had failed, anxiety was aroused in regard to the facilities to travel in crossing the river. A company was incorporated to build a pontoon bridge, and the work of its construction was pushed with energy to its completion, which took place on the 18th of October, 1865. The bridge rested upon thirteen flat boats, each 15x25 feet, and placed about fifty feet apart. The boats were held in position by a wire cable stretched across the river. The pontoon occupied the same place where the bridge of 1858 had stood, and the same as now occupied by the iron bridge. The original cost of this structure was about $15,000. This was a great accommodation and served a very valuable purpose. On the 12th of February, 1867, there was unusual high water in the Kansas and other streams. Bridges at Manhattan and at Wyandotte were carried away, and damage sustained to the extent of requiring an expenditure of $5,000 for repairs by the pontoon at Topeka.

From 1865 to 1868 the business at Topeka continued to increase very rapidly, and the question of a bridge again became a topic of frequent and anxious conversation. The city council took the subject under consideration, and though its committee recommended the construction of a wire suspension bridge, the tolls to be pledged as security for payment of interest on indebtedness that would be incurred in its construction.

On the 20th of November, 1868, the city council directed the mayor to issue his proclamation calling an election to be held on the 11th of December, upon the proposition of the issuance of $100,000 of the bonds of the city, the proceeds of the same to be used in the construction of an iron bridge over the Kansas river, but it does not appear that any proclamation was issued, or any election held.

At that juncture, however, Mr. Joshua Knowles, Dr. D. W. Stormont, and others who were largely interested in the pontoon bridge, appeared before the council with a proposition that they would proceed immediately to the construction of a first-class iron bridge, but desired the city to subscribe to a capital stock for that purpose to the extent of $25,000, or otherwise to endorse the bridge company's bonds to that amount. The council declined to do either, but very willingly waived all intention on the part of the city to build, if the company would proceed without unnecessary delay to build. There was perhaps a little hesitancy on the part of the company to engage in so expensive an undertaking, when Mr. Mortimer Cook, an enterprising gentle-

THE WHISKY RIOT.

ON the 12th of March, 1855, the Topeka Association adopted a code of by-laws, one of which read as follows:

> No member of this association shall be permitted to buy, sell, or give away where profit accrues, any intoxicating liquors of whatever kind, nor permit them to be bought, sold, or given away where profit accrues, upon his premises; and the full force of this article shall attach in all its particulars to the entire shares which any member may sell, exchange, transfer, give away, or make over by any process, to any other person whatever, and shall be so mentioned in any article or deed of sale which may hereafter be made in the exchange of city shares or parts of shares; and further, the full force of this article shall attach in all its particulars to the city lots to be donated to actual settlers, and also to any interest now held or which may hereafter be held by the Emigrant Aid Company in this city property: *Provided*, That nothing in this article shall be construed to prevent the sale and use of such liquors for medical, mechanical or sacramental purposes, under penalty of the forfeiture of the premises on which such sale, use or gift of liquors may be made to the Topeka Association.

The sentiment of the people continued resolute against the sale of liquors, but, on several occasions during the succeeding year or two, force, the only available law, was resorted to to get rid of the whisky nuisance; and still it advanced upon them with increasing boldness.

At length, in the spring of 1857, a dramshop was opened at No. 50 Kansas avenue, and bottles and barrels displayed in true metropolitan style. A good deal of uneasiness was felt, but as the stock was extensive and quite valuable, there was hesitancy in measures for destroying it. One Charles Leonhart, a bright but intemperate young man, was a frequenter at the saloon, and, when intoxicated, reckless of consequences. On the 11th of July, 1857, one passed the saloon door, and hearing the young man in angry altercation with the proprietor, said in a loud voice, "Clear them out, Charley," when the voice being recognized, the bottles came smashing through the windows with astonishing rapidity. People soon gathered around, filling the room, and engaged with the excitement usual to such scenes in rolling out kegs, barrels and casks of liquors, while others with axe in hand broke them open, and left the liquors to flow down the gutters.

When everything there had been destroyed, the crowd crossed the avenue to a store near the southwest corner of Fifth street, where it was known that a considerable quantity of beer was stored, and destroyed it. While the work of destruction was going on there, and the store full of people, the maddened proprietor attempted to ignite with lighted match a keg of powder, and came very near accomplishing his purpose before he was knocked down.

From that place the rioters, then numbering a hundred perhaps, returned to the southeast corner of Fifth street, where one barrel of whisky was shire town of Shawnee county, and appointed a board of county commissioners, who had authority to proceed at once to the erection of a court house, though there was no fund with which to pay for it, and no immediate sources of revenue, inasmuch as there was no property subject to taxation.

No time was lost in prosecuting the erection of a court house, as it was deemed the best anchor that Tecumseh could cast to hold the county seat, against the contingency of a rival for its benefits appearing further up the stream. A brick structure of some forty by fifty feet upon the ground, and two stories in height, a lofty portico in front, on pillars of brick, and the partition walls and floors of brick, but without plastering and generally without doors, was erected in the fall of 1855 and spring of 1856, and bonds of the county in payment for the same and the ground upon which it stood, to the amount of $8,500, were issued by the county commissioners.

There were other obligations outstanding against the county when, in 1858, the Free-State men came into power, and on the 14th of December of that year Jeremiah Murphy, chairman of the board, and F. W. Giles, clerk, were directed to prepare for publication a statement of the indebtedness of the county as it should appear upon the books. On the 4th of January, 1859, the board being in session at Auburn, a detailed report was made, whereupon the board took action as follows:

It thus appears that there are claims outstanding against the county in the sum of about $11,000.

It may be expected of us in this connection to say something of the nature of the claims thus accruing, and of the course proper for the county to adopt in regard to them. But in this we shall be brief, preferring rather to leave a full discussion of the subject to the people at large.

As will be observed, the principal of the amount of claims is on account of a building erected in Tecumseh, ostensibly for the purpose of a court house for the use and benefit of the county.

The so-called Legislature of Kansas Territory, sitting at Shawnee Manual Labor School, in 1855, defined boundaries for Shawnee county, elected for us county officers, and prescribed ways in which they might proceed to the erection of county buildings at an unlimited expense, thus characteristically withholding from the people any expression of their choice in the location of their county seat, and making them liable to onerous taxes for the erection of county buildings, in place and in character such as were entirely repugnant to their wishes.

We will remark in relation to the expenditures on account of the "court house," that they were made in the most reckless disregard of the wishes of the county; and in relation to the claims on account of the courts during the years 1855, '56 and '57, that they were without the pale of any law of the people of Kansas: neither receiving the regards nor the respect of any but the few who sought to impose them upon an unwilling and insulted people.

We therefore have considered that popular opinion, as well as our own feelings and duties, demand of us, on behalf of the people of Shawnee county an utter renunciation of any indebtedness of our county for any purpose whatever, accruing from any cause whatever, prior to October, 1857.

And therefore, we, the Board of Supervisors of Shawnee county, Kansas Territory, do hereby resolve, that we will consider no claim against our said county, grant no allowance or order, and make no appropriation for the payment of any claim accruing prior to the first Monday in October, 1857, fully repudiating and renouncing any and all liabilities of our said county by reason of any contract, agreement, bargain, allowance or proceeding either through any person or persons having claimed authority thereto or otherwise, under any pretense whatsoever.

J. MURPHY,
ALONZO H. HALE,
GEORGE BRATTON.

F. W. GILES, *Clerk.*
BROWNSVILLE, K. T., Jan. 4, 1859.

No part of these claims have been paid. The commissioners justified their course in regard to that indebtedness upon the grounds that the Legislature which had located the county seat at Tecumseh, and made it the duty of the county commissioners to proceed to the erection of county buildings, had no lawful being as a legislative body; that, admitting it to be a lawful body, it was an usurpation for it to fix the seat of justice in any county, or to impose upon the county the expenses of county buildings; that the location of the seat of justice and the construction of county buildings were prerogatives of the people of a county, to be expressed by popular election.

But while the people of the county, except immediately about Tecumseh, were opposed to the county seat remaining at that place, and more so from the fact of its having been elected by the "bogus" Legislature, the question as to where it should be located was attended with the usual diversity of opinion upon such subjects.

The town of Burlingame, twenty miles to the southwest of Topeka, was founded by P. C. Schuyler and associates in the spring of 1855, under circumstances which gave it a prospective importance, and as its locality was within the territory then embraced in Shawnee county, it was regarded as in some measure a rival town with Topeka in claims for the county-seat location.

The Legislature of 1857-8 took action in regard to the county-seat matter, and provided for the question of its location being submitted to popular vote in the several counties, at the general election to be held on the 4th of October, 1858.

At the election, the result was clearly in favor of Topeka, as by Topekans at least it had been confidently expected to be, though the southern townships had voted for Burlingame, the central for Auburn, and Tecumseh had her devices for defeating any intelligent expression of opinion upon the subject. The result was very gratifying at Topeka, and especially so to the writer, who, holding a county office, was under the necessity of journeying every day to Tecumseh from Topeka to attend to his official duties.

The act providing for the election had made the poll books returnable to the probate judge. The gentleman holding that position had been appointed to fill a vacancy occasioned by the failure of P. C. Schuyler to qualify, after his election in the fall of 1857. This appointee was Edward Hoogland, a a resident of and largely interested in the town of Tecumseh, a shrewd and ready lawyer, a wily man.

It was his duty under the act to ascertain and publish the results of the election within five days after the poll books should be returned to him, whereupon the locality receiving the majority of votes cast was to become, *ipso facto*, the county seat.

The Topeka people waited anxiously for the publication. The poll books were on file in the office of the judge as required by the law, and the results of the vote were known to him and to all inquirers. Weeks and months passed by, and not a word from the judge in regard to the county-seat question. It was apparent that he had determined to ignore his duties in that respect altogether. This was particularly grievous to the clerk, for the season was very wet, the roads very bad, and his daily journeyings between Topeka and Tecumseh very uncomfortable. When he had endured the delays of the contumacious judge as long as his respect for the judicial ermine demanded, he became a little revolutionary in turn, and quietly loaded the "county seat" into his buggy and carried it away to Topeka, where he settled himself comfortably in the office of Dr. King, at the southeast corner of Kansas and Sixth avenues. Judge Hoogland was not long in discerning the waywardness of his clerk, and became exceeding wroth thereat. A very few days only passed before the clerk was served with summons at the hands of Thos. W. Maires, sheriff, to appear forthwith before his honor Rush Elmore, U. S. District Judge, at the court house in Tecumseh, "there to show cause why," etc. Prompt obedience was given to the summons by the clerk, but considerable time passed before Judge Elmore arrived at the court house, and considerable more time elapsed before he and

Hoogland were through with private consultations. When the court was entirely ready, the case was soon disposed of, and the clerk, without imprisonment, fine, forfeiture or reprimand was permitted to return his way rejoicing to Topeka. It seemed to have been Judge Hoogland rather than the clerk that was on trial, for immediately after these proceedings, to-wit, on the 16th of December, he published the results of the election, though his wounded dignity was doubtless to some extent assuaged by the incorporation therewith of fourteen distinct objections to the legality of the election, and terminated his delaration in the following words:

> I do therefore certify and declare, that the said election for county seat for the county of Shawnee, held on the 4th and 5th days of October, 1858, was not conducted according to law, and that the same is illegal, fraudulent and void.
>
> Given under my hand, at the city of Tecumseh, the 27th day of November, 1858.
>
> EDWARD HOOGLAND, *Probate Judge Shawnee Co., K. T.*

To remedy any informalities that might have occurred at the election, as well as in the judge's action, the Legislature passed an act, on the 24th of January, 1859, declaring the election to have been lawful, and the county seat to be permanently located at Topeka.

To save Topeka from the contingency of some future action upon the subject, the Legislature of 1859-60 detached from Shawnee county, on the south, all that territory previously belonging to the county and lying south of the township line between towns Nos. 13 and 14, amounting to six full

Government townships; and by the same act there was detached from Jackson county and added to Shawnee all the territory previously belonging to Jackson and lying south of the second standard parallel, amounting to a little more than two Government townships.

This action was largely prompted by a desire on the part of the people living in the northern part of the county, and particularly at Topeka, to render that town more central in the county, and thereby strengthen its claims to permanently remain the county seat. The action was reciprocated by a similar feeling by the people of Burlingame, with reference to making that town the county seat of Osage county. It was particularly grievous to the town of Auburn, which had been founded somewhat upon the probability of its becoming the county seat of Shawnee. A hope to that end was strongly cherished by its people till after the change of county lines before named.

After the removal of the county business to Topeka, the sessions of the courts were held in the chambers of the Ritchie block, the Gale block, and at other places, but most of the time till 1868 in rooms at No. 104 Sixth avenue east; and the county offices at various places about the city, as room could be obtained for them, though without suitable accommodations, nor safe receptacles for the public records.

At length, in 1867, a movement was made to provide a court house. Lots Nos. 109, 111 and 113 Kansas avenue were purchased from Dr. F. L. Crane, for the sum of $8,000, and at a popular election the county voted a loan of $65,000, at ten per cent interest. These bonds were negotiated with one of the banks at Topeka, at eighty-two and a half cents on their face value. The contract for building was let to Theo. Mills, and the basement of the building completed that year. In 1868 the building was completed, though at an expense of some ten or fifteen thousand dollars more than was realized to the county from the first appropriation. The building at that time was the finest in Kansas. The basement was used for a jail, and soon became a nuisance to the offices and court room.

At the close of 1884, the people of the county were a good deal surprised to learn that the board of county commissioners, consisting of H. C. Lindsey, J. Q. A. Peyton and Thos. Buckman, had purchased lots for a new court house and a county jail, on Van Buren street, at its intersection with Fifth street, paying for lots Nos. 140, 142 and 144, $6,000, and for Nos. 133, 135, 137, 139, 141 and 143, $14,500; prices enormously in excess of what the property was worth. Public meetings of protest were held, and legal measures considered with reference to annulling the purchase, but it was found probable that the commissioners might be able to justify their act of purchase by the letter of the law, though it was in palpable violation of its spirit; while as to the matter of value, it would be said that that was purely a matter of judgment. It was generally charged that a great fraud upon the county had been perpetrated, but as a new court house and jail were greatly needed, the matter was permitted to drop.

The commissioners having been successful in this maneuver to use the public funds without consulting their constituents, they next appealed to the Legislature, at its session of 1886, for authority to levy a tax of six mills upon the dollar of valuation, to raise funds for building a county jail, and a jailor's residence; and through the active influence of representatives who were anxious to serve them, the act was passed and became a law before it was publicly known that such a measure was contemplated. The commissioners had thus, in their acts of purchasing a site, and in acquiring authority to construct buildings without consulting the popular wishes, assumed and procured for themselves powers in expending large sums of the public funds precisely analagous to those clothed upon the first board of commissioners by the "bogus" Legislature, and whose acts in the erection of a court house at Tecumseh, the first succeeding board of commissioners, supported by almost the unanimous voice of the people of the county, utterly repudiated, and in the most remote degree refused to recognise, for reasons heretofore stated.

THE WATER SUPPLY.

THE meteorological conditions of the "great plains," as the country west of the Missouri river was generally designated prior to its settlement by the pale faces, was little known, but it was apparent to the casual observer that it was a very dry region. The settlers at the site of Topeka were not unmindful of this fact, and from this cause, as well as for commercial reasons, their town site by the river side was deemed to be well chosen. As a lavatory, too, it was of great value to them during the first winter. To its banks they did resort at morning and evening with punctiliousness, to perform their ablutions. The breaking of the ice was sometimes attended with wet feet, and the absence of soaps and absorbents was a little annoying, but the absence of mirrors was a compensating circumstance.

The first attempt at well digging was at the expense of the town association by the "Pioneer House," southeast corner Kansas avenue and Third street, in the summer of 1855. Water was obtained at the depth of the level of the river, of good quality, and this was a fact of importance. The tendency of improvements was southward on

Kansas avenue from the beginning, and several unsuccessful attempts for water by means of the common well were made on high grounds, but no water was obtained off from the river bottoms till 1857. In that year an abundant supply of very excellent water was obtained at a depth of some eighteen feet, on the site of the Episcopal Female Seminary, No. 272 Topeka avenue. Prior to this event very damaging reports had gone abroad, to the effect that Topeka could be no town because there was no water. About the year 1858 an attempt was made to procure water on the northeast corner of Kansas avenue and Fifth street —present site of the postoffice—in the ordinary way of well digging, but no water being obtained upon reaching the rock, it was determined to try the effects of drilling. A four-inch drill was put down, to the reported depth of 100 feet or more, but no flow of water was procured. It is our recollection that the drill worked all the way in rock, but that no attention was given to the character of rock by the workmen.

On the 24th of March, 1858, the city council appointed a committee from its members to see what action could be taken by that body to remedy the evil, and at a subsequent meeting the committee reported "that wells at the intersection of Fourth and Jackson streets, at the intersection of Sixth and Jackson streets, and at the intersection of Eighth and Van Buren streets, would best subserve the convenience of the citizens, and would be sufficient till a very large increase of population."

In accordance with this report, attempts were made to find water at the points named on Jackson street, but with no immediate benefits, though a well at the southeast corner of Jackson street and Sixth avenue, dry at first, subsequently yielded water. I think no attempt was made at the intersection of Eighth and Van Buren, but a well was sunk at a very early day at the northeast corner of Sixth and Harrison streets, partly at expense of the city, which yielded a small quantity of water, but was never of any great value. The town was mostly supplied by hauling water in barrels from the river.

In 1859, Mr. Loring Farnsworth procured an abundant supply of good water on Harrison street, at the locality at present of the parsonage of the Presbyterian church. To the writer's recollection, this, and that of the seminary near by, were the only wells in Topeka, away from the river bottom, where water was obtained in the winter of 1859–60.

Persistent efforts to obtain water by means of a well were made by Mr. Enoch Chase, at the site of his hotel, lots Nos. 81 and 83 Sixth avenue east, but with no satisfactory results.

Mr. A. Shorregae, owning and occupying as a confectioner, at lot No. 165 Kansas avenue, sunk a shaft to the depth of about sixty feet, most of the distance through rock, for water, but obtained none. In subsequent years this well, as others under similar circumstances, afforded a large quantity of water; about forty feet from the bottom was usually the water's surface.

About this time Mr. C. C. Tuttle, who had erected the house on lot 114 Sixth avenue east, to be used as a hotel, renewed the attempt at an artesian well at that place, his work being continued during parts of 1859 and 1860. We take the following notice of this well from the *Kansas Tribune:*

A VALUABLE WELL.

Mr. C. C. Tuttle's artesian well on Sixth avenue has now reached a depth of 160 feet, with about 100 feet of water. At a depth of ninety feet he struck a coal bed five feet in thickness, and a few days since at a depth of 150 feet he opened a salt spring. The water is so strongly impregnated with salt that it is unfit for use. Mr. Tuttle intends to continue boring until he gets good water, or salt water enough to evaporate. We think the latter result the most probable. The discovery of the bed of coal spoken of goes far to demonstrate the theory entertained by many, and which we have repeatedly advocated, that coal exists in abundance in this country, and all that is needed to develop it, and prove this to be one of the finest coal fields in the west, is capital, and scientific mining.

This is truly a valuable discovery, and we hope that steps will be taken to test its extent and the feasibility of mining, confident that the result will prove all that we have claimed for Kansas in this respect.

But this artesian well project was abandoned, and no other attempt of the kind has been made within the city limits. The statement that a thick vein of coal was passed was not generally regarded as reliable. Some years after a cistern was constructed over the drill hole, and the water collected in it was found to be oily, so much so as to render it unfit for culinary purposes. Quite an excitement was raised over this event, some people thinking Topeka was to have an oil well.

In 1860, Mr. A. E. Goodel obtained a fine well of water at No. 270 Jackson street. This was the first successful attempt for water south of Third street and between Topeka avenue and Madison street, though a Mr. Roakey obtained a small supply by means of a four-inch drill at the depth of about forty feet at No. 223 Quincy street, the same year.

Since 1860, a year ever to be remembered for the drouth so disastrous, a change in climatic conditions has been observable from year to year, wherever the potent agency of the plow has been introduced, and for years prior to the introduction of public water a failure to get an abundance of good water by means of wells seldom occurred at Topeka.

The need of a more abundant supply of water than could be obtained from wells and cisterns was a theme for several years discussed, before any public action was taken to remedy the evil. Finally, considerable alarm was felt on account of the meager supply that would be available in case of a great conflagration, and plans of differing nature were discussed for providing the required water. The plan most generally preferred was for the city to construct and operate the necessary works on its own account, and to this end skilled engineers were employed to consider and report upon the practicability and expense of taking water from the Kansas river, and elevating it by steam power to a high plateau of land about five miles west from the city, into spacious reservoirs, thence to be brought by a suitable conduit to the city. A very elaborate and exact report was made to the city council, in which it was found to be entirely practicable to procure the needed supply by this method, but the expense of doing so was large. The proposition of adopting this plan was submitted to vote of the citizens on the 1st day of September, 1881, the sum of money to be raised to carry out the plan being $281,000.

There was a greater opposition to the plan than had been anticipated, and the measure was defeated.

On the 5th day of September, 1881, the city council, by ordinance No. 400, entered into contract with a corporation that had been chartered on the 8th day of December, 1879, to supply the city with water from the Kansas river, as in that ordinance set forth. The construction of the works was immediately commenced, and water was available to consumers on the 4th of July, 1882.

THE FUEL SUPPLY.

IN the early days of the settlement of Kansas a great deal of solicitude was felt upon the subject of the fuel supply; especially so, perhaps, from the fact the settlers were mostly from those sections of the country where timber was abundant. Some of the military expeditions through the country had reported the existence of coal in the south, but none was known in the valley of the Kansas or northward.

At Topeka, for the first year or so, charcoal was prepared for blacksmiths' use, but as early as 1856, we think, a thin vein of rather inferior coal was found cropping from a bluff near the Kansas river, about two miles west of town, by Mr. Hiram Coville. He procured of it and brought it to the blacksmith for trial. From that time hopes were entertained of finding a supply at some place in the Territory, and observations and inquiries were frequent upon the subject. Few or no systematic attempts were made, however, about Topeka. In the fall of 1859, Mr. S. P. Wemple, a farmer residing about sixteen miles southwest of Topeka, discovered upon his land a much better quality of coal than had been in use by the smiths, and brought a sample of it to Topeka for exhibition. During the winter of 1859–60, several wagon loads of it were brought in for sale. From that time forward discoveries of coal at localities nearer Topeka were not unfrequent, and a little mining was done at points where the coal deposit came sufficiently near the surface to allow the overlying earth to be removed without too great expense. There were probably not more than half a dozen coal stoves in use in Topeka during the winter of 1861–2. Wood was equal to ten dollars a cord, prepared for use. The writer used a coal stove in his business room during that winter, and kept an exact statement of the expense for his coal. Dr. Herr, who had a drug store adjoining him, also kept an account of expense he was to in warming his room with wood. Upon comparing the two statements, and considering incidental circumstances, it was apparent that the cost of warming with coal at twenty-five cents per bushel was not more than half as much as from warming by wood. This comparison had much to do in promoting the consumption of coal. With increased demand came increased supply. Coal was brought in considerable quantity upon wagons from Osage county, and from places equally distant to the southwest. Shafts were sunk near Topeka, on the west, so that the use of coal became general in a few years; prices ranging from twenty-five to thirty cents a bushel until 1869.

In 1870, the importance of procuring fuel at less cost was so manifest that the city appropriated

$1,000 as an encouragement for some one to drill in search of a lower and superior vein. Col. Fielding Johnson, then a merchant in Topeka, availed himself of the appropriation, and sunk a drill to the depth of 518 feet, on his farm two miles west from town, but found no coal. In addition to the $1,000 appropriated by the city, Col. Johnson, George W. Veale and Mr. Woodard expended in the enterprise $2,000 or more of their individual means, and they might have expended much more had not the contractor become discouraged by the breaking of his drill, and the difficulty of removing it from the hole, for he had had great experience in coal mining, and was confident of reaching a valuable deposit in this case.

At the depth of 169 feet a stream of salt water was struck, which flowed freely away from the mouth of the hole for many years afterwards. Some of this was evaporated to crystallization and sold at Topeka.

No further efforts to reach deep lying coal were made till 1885. In that year, the city, at a popular election, made an appropriation of $15,000, to be expended under direction of the city council in search for a vein of three feet or more in thickness, which was known to exist in some localities in the State, and which from a geological point of view might be supposed to extend beneath Topeka. A contract was made for the test to be made, but the question being raised in regard to the authority of the city to appropriate moneys for the purpose, active work was suspended.

At the session of the Legislature in 1886, a law was adopted enabling cities of the first class to make such expenditures.

The use of anthracite coal from Pennsylvania was first introduced in Topeka in 1882, especially from the unusually low price of freights. In 1884 a coal of the same general character from Colorado was brought into use, and thereafter become common.

MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT.

THE second session of the "bogus" Territorial Legislature was held at Lecompton, in the beginning of the year 1857. To ask any favor of that body, or to recognise any of its acts as of legal efficacy, was regarded by Free-State men as closely akin to treason to the Free-State cause.

There existed a desire on the part of many of its members, however, if indeed it had not a fixed policy, to do what they could to pacify the Free-State element, at least into a recognition of it as a legally-constituted body; and to this end they were desirous of bestowing such favors upon Free-State towns and citizens as they might short of yielding any ground in regard to the legal status of the Territorial government, or upon the question of all questions—the permanency of the institution of slavery in the Territory.

It was with a good deal of surprise, therefore, and with some degree of indignation, that the citizens of Topeka, at a late day in the summer of 1857, learned that that Legislature had bestowed a charter for a municipal government upon them. The act of incorporation bore date the 14th of February, 1857. The disinclination on the part of the citizens to organize under the "bogus" Territorial authority was so great, that they might not have done so at all but for some further legislation upon the subject by the Free-State Legislature of 1858. At length there appeared the following

PROCLAMATION.

To all whom it may concern:

By virtue of an act entitled "An act to incorporate the city of Topeka," and all acts and parts of acts in aid thereof, know ye, that we, Franklin L. Crane, Thomas G. Thornton, Loring G. Cleveland and Samuel T. Walkley, do hereby proclaim and make known, that we have this day constituted and appointed Loring Farnsworth, J. C. Miller and A. F. Whiting judges of election for the purpose of organizing the municipal government of said city of Topeka.

Given under hands, this 11th day of January, 1858.

F. L. CRANE,
T. G. THORNTON,
M. C. DICKEY,
L. G. CLEVELAND,
S. T. WALKLEY.

On the same day as the date of this proclamation, the judges therein named issued their proclamation calling for an election to be held on the 28th of January, for the election of a mayor and nine councilmen of the city of Topeka, and on that day were duly elected, Loring Farnsworth to be mayor, and A. F. Whiting, L. Housel, H. W. Farnsworth, G. S. Gordon, J. G. Bunker, James A. Hickey, W. W. Ross, Guilford Dudley and J. Fin. Hill to be councilmen.

Guilford Dudley was appointed register, W. L. Gordon, marshal, and J. C. Miller, treasurer.

At a meeting of the council on the 24th of

March, the marshal was authorized to grade "the street" between the end of the bridge and First avenue, at an expenditure not exceeding the sum of one hundred and fifty dollars. Immediately north of First avenue there was a steep, second river bank of some ten or more feet in height.

The act of incorporation named no time for holding municipal elections, and on the 6th of January, 1859, an ordinance was adopted fixing the second Tuesday in March as the date upon which the annual elections should be held.

During the spring of 1859, a little work was done in grading on Kansas avenue, between Third and Fourth streets—the first done in the city.

There was a slight tax imposed for city purposes in 1858, but only a small part of it was paid.

The mayor published notice to delinquents as follows:

NOTICE TO TAXPAYERS.

All persons who have not paid their taxes for the current year are hereby notified that Howard Cutts has been duly appointed city marshal, whereby he is authorized to attend to and collect the taxes for the city of Topeka.

L. FARNSWORTH, *Mayor*.

This was the first tax levied upon the people of Topeka of which they paid any part or took any respectful notice.

At the municipal election in March, 1859, Lorenzo Dow was elected mayor, but on the second day of June he resigned his office, and at a special election held on the second day of July, C. K. Holliday was elected to serve during Mr. Dow's unexpired term, J. F. Cummings as chairman of the council acting as mayor during the interim.

On the 4th of January, 1859, the city council made provision for issuing city scrip to the amount of $500. Councilman J. G. Bunker was responsible for this first issue of "credit money" by the city of Topeka.

In 1860, Noah W. Cox was chosen mayor, and in 1861, Harris F. Otis. On the 9th of May, Mr. Otis sustained injuries from an accidental fall which occasioned his death. Dr. F. L. Crane, as chairman of the council, exercised the functions of mayor during the remainder of Mr. Otis' term. In 1861 was adopted an ordinance to restrain the running at large of swine—a fact of some importance, we think, as showing the sentiment of the people upon the subject of street cleanliness and proprieties.

In 1862 C. K. Holliday was elected to the office of mayor, and in 1863 Joseph F. Cummings. In a message addressed to the council, Mr. Cummings stated the indebtedness of the city at $18,211. He called attention to the occasion for sidewalks to be built on Kansas avenue between Fourth and Seventh streets, and on Sixth avenue between Monroe and Van Buren streets. His recommendations were favorably considered, and walks were built of oak lumber—the first sidewalks built in the town.

During the period of 1863-67, there was an uninterrupted increase of population, and abundant business for the city government in the way of grading streets and building sidewalks and school houses.

In 1867, C. K. Holliday being mayor, the era of annexations began.

EUGENIA.

By the terms of section 5 of a treaty concluded between the United States and the Kansas tribe of Indians, at St. Louis, on the 30th day of December, 1825, a special reservation was made to each of twenty-three persons of the half-breed Kaws therein named, of one mile square of land lying by the north bank of the Kansas river, beginning at the east line of the Pottawatomie reservation, and extending east for quantity. No. 4 of these reservations lay opposite to the site of Topeka, and was reserved to Julia Gonvil, one of the daughters of Louis Gonvil.

In April, 1860, Congress authorized the several reservees of this tract, or their heirs, to sell their lands, and most of them soon after sold. According to the original boundaries of counties, these lands were embraced in Calhoun (now Jackson) county, but the Legislature of 1869 so changed the county lines that they fell within Shawnee county.

The lands constituting these reservations were at that time generally well wooded, oak and cottonwood trees preponderating, interspersed with hickory, black walnut, and other varieties. Immediately after the authorization act of Congress, in 1860, the lands commenced to pass from the ownership of the half-breeds, and a few houses were erected near the river, the value of the lands being materially enhanced by their contiguity to Topeka.

On the 30th of March, 1867, a part of the southwest quarter of reserve No. 4 was platted for town purposes, under the name of Eugenia, and the plat duly filed in the county recorder's office, and on the 9th of the next succeeding month of April, by ordinance, it was duly attached to and became a part of the municipality of Topeka. Since the districting of the city into wards it has been constituted ward No. 1. In 1872, the citizens of that part of the city entertained the idea that it would in some way be of advantage to them to be separated from Topeka and establish an independent city organization. The election of a representative to the Legislature turned largely upon that point, in the fall of 1872, and Maj. D. M. Adams, a strong supporter of the measure, was elected. A bill to divide the city was duly laid before the Legislature and strenuously advocated by Maj. Adams, but it found little support, and failed of adoption.

On the 20th of April, 1867, an ordinance was adopted annexing Crane's addition; on May 21st, one annexing Young's and Horne's additions; on the 1st of June, Ritchie's and Huntoon's additions; February 28th, 1871, King's addition; and on the 27th of August, 1867, the 31st of October, 1868, the 20th of April, 1869, the 6th of February, 1872, the 12th of August, 1872, the 15th of April, 1875, the 12th of March, 1880, and the 25th of February, 1882, tracts of land adjacent to the city were in like manner annexed. Including these and various tracts contiguous to them, platted and settled upon, the grounds substantially constituting the site of the city in 1885 were about 2,700 acres.

RITCHIE'S ADDITION.

The northeast quarter of section 6, of township 12, range 16, was originally held as a part of the town site of Topeka, James A. Hickey being occupant for the town association.

When it became necessary to raise money with which to purchase the land float, this quarter-section of land was vacated to the occupancy of Mr. John Ritchie, for the consideration actually paid of $400. Mr. Ritchie fenced the land, and used it for general farming purposes, till about the year 1860, when he adopted the plan of selling house lots from it; generally for only a very slight payment, provided the party purchasing would erect a house or other improvements upon the lot.

No plat of the grounds was made, in the usual way of platting for town purposes, but the lots were described in his deeds as being some given number of feet from the southern terminal point of the streets of the city of Topeka. In this way during the succeeding years a large number of lots were sold, and houses built upon them. The locality at once came to be popularly known as "Ritchie's addition." Mr. Ritchie made no discrimination against colored men in selling his grounds, and quite a large proportion of the settlers in that district were of the colored race; a circumstance that militated against the sale of lots to white people, and the locality has remained comparatively unoccupied from that cause. Under a different, though a less humane policy perhaps, thousands of citizens would have been living there who are now living in the western part of the city. Prior to the 1st of June, 1867, the city had not attempted to exercise authority over that district, nor to make it subject to taxation for city purposes, but by ordinance No. 44, approved June 1, 1867, the city council sought to annex it to the city, and thereafter proceeded to construct sidewalks and school houses, maintain schools, exercise police authority, and impose taxes there, as in other parts of the city. In most cases the taxes were paid; but in 1872 Mr. Ritchie brought suit against the city, in the district court, to restrain their collection, alleging that his lands were not within the city of Topeka, and therefore not subject to taxation for city purposes. The case was argued before Judge John T. Morton, and decided in favor of the plaintiff. By city ordinance No. 237, approved April 15, 1875, the city council again attempted to bring said tract within the corporate limits of the city. Subsequently, Gillett and others brought suit to restrain the collection of taxes levied for city purposes upon the same tract, and this case being argued before Judge John Martin, was decided in favor of the plaintiffs, February 14, 1884, from which decision an appeal to the Supreme Court was taken, and the decision of the district court affirmed, at the July term of 1884. The grounds of these and of other suits of substantially the same character, and ending in similar results, were that the several ordinances of annexation were of no legal effect.

SOUTH TOPEKA.

In the month of March, 1882, "The Western Investment Company," of Topeka, A. Prescott president, purchased, platted and opened for sale, under the name of "Walnut Grove," the east half of the north half of the southwest quarter of section 6, township 12, range 16; and in the month of October in the same year Mr. Wilson Keith platted a portion of his lands, being the northwest quarter of the northwest quarter of section 5, township 12, range 16, and in the summer of 1885, these two last-named tracts, in connection with the tract previously known as Ritchie's addition, were organized as a city of the third class, under the name of South Topeka, though no plat of Col. Ritchie's lands had been filed in the recorder's office.

The first municipal election was held on the 25th of July, and on that occasion two hundred and seventy-six votes were cast. Col. John Ritchie was chosen mayor.

This new organization proceeded vigorously to works of improvement, expending $4,000 upon its streets in the autumn of 1885.

POPULATION.

The author has been anxious to furnish a true statement of the population of Topeka in each year from the date of its settlement, and every known source of information upon the subject has been exhausted to that end. With the exception of the census as taken by the General Government in 1860, and in 1870, the population as given is not official till 1875, but it is based upon the popular vote as given at some general election, modified by an intimate personal knowledge of the circumstanstances bearing on the subject in each particular year. The fluctuations about the year 1860 are fully accounted for by the great drouth that prevailed in Kansas during that year, and the consequent temporary removal of many families to other States; and that about 1874 to a similar cause—the grasshopper plague. Great pains have been taken, and while the annual enumerations as given are not to be considered as exact, it is thought to be impossible to make a closer approximation to exactness, and that for every practical purpose they are fully reliable. The population as given for 1855 is for December of that year—just one year from the time the seven men, strangers to each other, first lay down upon the ground where their life's future labors should be expended.

Since 1874, a careful enumeration of population has been made under State authority, but the figures as here given show only the enumeration as found in the city proper, while during the past five or six years there have grown up suburban settlements that are computed to have a population of from 6,500 to 7,000 souls; so that the number of persons residing at the locality of Topeka, at the close of the year 1885, is believed to be nearly or quite 30,000—an average increase of a thousand a year from the day the town was founded.

Year.	*Popul'n.*	*Year.*	*Popul'n.*	*Year.*	*Popul'n.*
1854*.........	7	1865.........	1,310	1876.........	7,863
1855*.........	408	1866.........	2,020	1877.........	8,496
1856.........	432	1867.........	2,810	1878.........	9,003
1857.........	507	1868.........	3,120	1879.........	11,204
1858.........	512	1869.........	3,465	1880.........	15,528
1859.........	700	1870.........	5,790	1881.........	16,240
1860.........	759	1871.........	7,355	1882.........	21,562
1861.........	600	1872.........	9,220	1883.........	22,425
1862.........	670	1873.........	8,770	1884.........	22,693
1863.........	865	1874.........	6,865	1885.........	23,499
1864.........	990	1875.........	7,272		

*In December.

THE MAYORS OF TOPEKA.

The names of persons who have held the office of mayor, and the period of their incumbancy, follows:

Loring Farnsworth from March, 1858, to March, 1859.
Lorenzo Dow, elected in March, 1859.*
C. K. Holliday, elected 1859.†
H. W. Farnsworth succeeded to the office in 1860.
Harris F. Otis, elected in 1861.‡
Noah Cox elected in 1862.†
Joseph F. Cummings succeeded to the office in 1863.
S. H. Fletcher " " " 1864.
W. W. Ross " " " 1865.
Ross Burns " " " 1866.
C. K. Holliday " " " 1867.
Orrin T. Welch " " " 1868.
C. K. Holliday " " " 1869.
J. B. McAfee " " " 1870.
Orrin T. Welch " " " 1871.
Henry Bartling " " " 1874.
T. J. Anderson " " " 1875.
M. H. Case " " " 1877.
Joseph C. Wilson § " " " 1881.
Bradford Miller, elected December 23, 1883.†
Robert L. Cofran succeeded to the office in 1885.

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* Resigned. † To fill vacancy. ‡ Died from accidental fall. § Resigned December 5, 1873.

THE CITY HALL.

Prior to the year 1879, the several offices of the municipality had been kept at such isolated points about the city as the council was able to secure, though often quite to its inconvenience, and finally at an annual expense of $1,500. In 1878 the public sentiment had become so generally in favor of the city having a suitable building of its own, in which to accommodate its various departments, that measures were initiated to that end. Hon. M. H. Case was mayor, and he urged action by the council upon the subject, until on the 6th day of December, 1878, a purchase of a site at the southwest corner of Kansas avenue and Seventh street—lots Nos. 217 and 219—was made at the price of $7,300, though a stone dwelling house was standing on the lots, from which a small quantity of material was utilized.

The work of constructing a city hall was soon commenced, and prosecuted during that season, but the building was not ready for occupancy till early in the year 1879. The cost of the building, including site for the same, was about $38,000, the precise sum not appearing on the city clerk's books. Portions of the building not at the time needed were rented to various parties, at an annual rental of $2,360, and the rentals have been sufficient to pay from four to six per cent. upon the whole investment all the time since.

The city prison was for three or four years in the basement of this building, but, in spite of all precautions, the air from it was fetid, and in 1872 a site on the northeast corner of Fifth and Jackson streets was purchased, and a substantial building constructed, suitable for a city prison, and also furnishing rooms for the municipal court, police headquarters, city engineer, the city attorney, and other purposes. The cost of the building and lots was about $9,000.

Topeka became a city of the first class by proclamation of Gov. J. P. St. John, on the 14th of March, 1881, it having then attained the population qualifying it for that distinction under the laws of the State.

THE HOMICIDE OF ARMS.

WHEN Gov. Walker came to Kansas, in the summer of 1857, he made the tour of the Territory, delivering addresses to the people, and urging them to cease the civil strife that for three years had diverted their attention from ordinary pursuits, and place their reliance upon the just workings of the law. The burden of these addresses was, "amnesty for the past, exact and equal justice for the future." It was upon the pledges, sincerely and anxiously given, that by-gones should be by-gones, and the future be right, that Gov. Walker succeeded in securing what all previous Governors had failed to do—the acquiescence of the Free-State party in the "bogus" enactments of their adversaries, so far as to once vote under them, even for the all-important purpose of securing control of the Territorial government, and henceforth relieving themselves from the slave power dominion.

The men of the Free-State party were aware, of course, that Gov. Walker had no direct control over the judiciary, and that the numerous indictments against them could only be quashed by action of the judiciary; and yet his oft-repeated utterances in reference to these left no doubt in their minds that the *nolle prosequi* would in every case be entered in their behalf.

It is a most singular political mystery, that no one of the six men successively appointed by Presidents Pierce and Buchanan to be Governors of Kansas should have known the political work they were expected to do. It is reasonable to assume that they did not. They were all eminent in the national councils of the Democratic party; they all became acceptable to the Free-State party soon after their arrival upon the field; they were all removed or forced to resign within a few months from the date of their appointment, (with the exception of Gov. Medary, whose term was after the slave power had lost all expectation of making Kansas a slave State,) and for no alleged cause. No one of them was quicker to comprehend the situation in Kansas than Robert J. Walker, the Mississipian; no one was more faithful to his convictions than he.

His term of office was six months and a half. During 1858 and 1859, little or nothing was heard of these indictments, and the public mind had settled down into a feeling of security from them. In 1860, rumors were abroad that the indicted persons must appear in court, which was understood to imply, at least, payment of considerable bills of costs, before the "*nolle*" could be entered. This seemed to them as a flagrant breach of the promised amnesty by which they had been induced in 1857 to cease their opposition to the "bogus" government for a sufficient length of time to take possession of and strangle it, and they generally refused to appear before a court of their enemies, of whose proceedings, under political bias, many Free-State men had already felt too much.

Attempts were made to arrest and bring them into court, possibly for purposes of annoyance and revenge, more than for anything else. Col. John Ritchie, of Topeka, was one against whom an indictment upon the absurd charge of mail robbery had been found in 1856, and who had been under arrest by military "*posse*" and in prison at Lecompton, from which he escaped.

On the 20th of April, 1860, U. S. Deputy Marshal Leonard Arms came to Topeka to effect Mr. Ritchie's arrest. He was aware that Col. Ritchie was a man of great firmness of purpose, and fearless in the discharge of whatever he conceived to be the right. The marshal made more particular inquiries in regard to Mr. Ritchie's character, and as to the place of his residence, and delayed his visit to his house till nearly sundown. He had a friend with him, but it did not appear that he had brought arms from his home at Lawrence, for he borrowed a revolver in Topeka.

Col. Ritchie resided on the southern border of the town, a little to the east of his present residence. Upon reaching the place of Col. Ritchie, he met him, in company with Mr. Harvey D. Rice, in the yard. Leaving his horse and carriage in care of his friend, Arms called Ritchie aside and made known to him the purpose of his visit. Ritchie told him that he should not be arrested, and walked to his house, followed by Arms. Upon entering his house, Ritchie got his pistol and awaited Arms' coming. The marshal entered the house, pistol in hand, and the two men stood confronting each other, each ready to fire at a moment's notice —the marshal insisting upon Ritchie's surrender, and Ritchie with vehemence replying that he should not be arrested alive.

At length conversation ceased, and the deadly arms were lowered. The marshal turned to the door and called his friend to come to him, and apparently was disposed to make no further attempt at arrest. In a minute after, however, he turned again upon Ritchie and uttered the sentence, "By God! you have to go!"—advancing towards Ritchie, who stepped backwards to an adjoining room, both with revolvers pointed at each other. Ritchie then said, "Stand back or I will shoot you!" Arms advanced a pace and Ritchie fired. The ball took effect in Arms' neck, and he fell and expired without uttering a word.

Mr. Ritchie surrendered himself to Justice Jos. C. Miller, on the same evening, for trial. Gen. James H. Lane, at Lawrence, was sent for to act with attorneys of Topeka as Ritchie's counsel. The trial was held before Justice Miller on the 21st, and continued until late in the evening of that day. A high degree of excitement prevailed in Topeka, the citizens generally sympathising with and justifying Ritchie in the course he had pursued. A crime he may have committed, but a vastly greater crime had been perpetrated by the

Federal judiciary, in disregarding of the implied amnesty, and in recklessly tearing open the wounds of 1855–6, with all the risk of renewed civil strife. Mr. Ritchie was discharged by the following language of the court:

> I have had the matter under consideration since the commencement of the trial, and believe that I realize the importance of the position that I occupy, and that I have endeavored carefully to scrutinize the evidence with that candor and impartiality which the subject under consideration so justly demands, and after fully weighing the evidence with all the ability which my poor, feeble nature possesses, have come to the honest conclusion, in view of my responsibility to my God, my country, and myself, that John Ritchie has committed homicide, but one justifiable in the sight of God and man. This being my honest conviction, the court deems it to be its duty to acquit the prisoner at the bar, charged with the murder of Leonard Arms, and discharge him from the custody of the law.

The decision was given about midnight, and was received by the large audience with demonstrations of great joy.

On the 23d, a public meeting was held, at which the citizens of Topeka gave expression to their views in a preamble and resolutions, as follows:

> WHEREAS, An attempt has been made by a man claiming to be a deputy United States marshal to arrest one of our fellow citizens upon accusations preferred during the contentions in the early settlement of this Territory, which attempt has resulted in the death of the person so claiming to be such deputy; and
>
> WHEREAS, It has been, and is, manifest to all conversant with the history of this Territory that these accusations originated in a determination to override the will of the people, and fasten slavery upon Kansas; and
>
> WHEREAS, By the provisions of an act passed by the Ter-

ritorial Legislature, February 11, 1859, known as the "amnesty act," signed by the Territorial Governor, and indorsed by the Federal judiciary of Kansas, and also by the repeal of the statutes of '55 without a saving clause, it was understood and taken for granted, that all prosecutions originating as before mentioned were to be abandoned and set aside; and

WHEREAS, A determination has been manifested on the part of certain Government officials to ignore and repudiate the well-defined spirit and intent of said act, and to revive, in defiance of the known wish of all well-disposed citizens, these infamous prosecutions, and thereby reopen the horrors of civil discord from which we have so recently been relieved: therefore, be it

Resolved, By this mass meeting of the people of Shawnee county, in solemn convention assembled, that while we sincerely deprecate the lamentable homicide which has resulted from this ill-advised action of the person so claiming to be a deputy United States marshal, we yet stand unequivocally upon the rule of action ennunciated by the people of Kansas in 1856;

That the aforesaid accusation and prosecutions are wholly fictitious, unjust and tyrannical;

That all attempts to serve process upon them, and all parties making such attempts, are deserving only of the utter reprobation and scorn of every law-abiding citizen;

And that, in the future as in the past, we will resist, with every legitimate and proper means within our power, every effort to compass the arrest and prosecution of our citizens upon the said accusations, in whatever shape the attempt may be made.

This preamble and resolutions were adopted without a dissenting voice. No further attempt was made to arrest Mr. Ritchie, and none so far as we know to arrest others under the indictments by Pro-Slavery juries of 1856, though many of those indictments remain intact upon the court books.

LITERARY AND DRAMATIC.

THE Topekans had from the first been alive to the importance of having a newspaper published at their town, and had shown superior talent in getting the name of their settlement into the public journals of the East. Various schemes were put on foot for securing the desideratum, but none proved successful. In this anxious state of mind, it may well be conceived that a great sensation was produced by the arrival, on the afternoon of the 5th of June, 1855, of E. C. K. Garvey from Milwaukee, accompanied by G. W. Brown, publisher of the *Herald of Freedom*, at Lawrence, and an immediate proposition on the part of Mr. Garvey to establish a newspaper at Topeka. He proposed transferring his family, his fortune, his political and business influence, his stores of merchandise and his extensive law library immediately to some point in the newly-erected Territory of Kansas, and, like a skillful general, followed this announcement with the expression of decided preference for Topeka, provided a satisfactory consideration was offered, and followed this last broadside discharge upon the bewildered Topekans with a casual remark that he had at that very hour a powerful steam press in transit up the Missouri river!

To the inquiry as to political principles, he gave assurances that "Free Kansas" would be the guiding star of his paper. He would await our response till the next day. In the little log cabin—council chamber of the Topeka Association—on the evening of that June day were gathered as many of the wise men of the town as could find room to solemnly deliberate upon the most important subject to their enterprise of any yet proposed. It was evident that Mr. Garvey had created a favorable impression by the magnitude of his offers, but there was a lingering apprehension that the offer was most too large to be all real. After considerable discussion the following resolutions were adopted:

Resolved, That we will and hereby do donate to E. C. K. Garvey, Esq., of Milwaukee, Wisconsin, city interests Nos. 57, 58 and 59, and that any rule of the association inconsistent with our action in the premises be and hereby is suspended, so far as it may apply to our action in the present case, provided that Esq. Garvey establish a good and respectable weekly newspaper, without unnecessary delay, in Topeka, and reside or exercise his influence and identify his interests with us, agreeably to suggestions made by him before the association to-day.

Resolved, That F. W. Giles, Amos G. Adams and Dr. S. E. Martin be a committee to present the foregoing resolutions to E. C. K. Garvey.

The committee lost no time in discharging its duty under the resolution, and negotiations were thus formally opened. Mr. Garvey seemed to think his offer rather lightly esteemed, and required that he be furnished in addition to the three city interests lots 11 and 12, in block 57, constituting what are now lots Nos. 146, 148, 150, 152, 154 and 156 Kansas avenue; and further, that the association should erect for him thereon a publishing house 18x24 feet and two stories high, for the sum of $400, payable by 200 copies of the forthcoming newspaper for one year. To these conditions the association consented, except that for the lots named it was to reserve from the lots of the city interests given to Mr. Garvey other lots of like value, and with the further condition that the paper should advocate "Free Kansas."

The important negotiations were thus made satisfactory to both the high contracting parties, and Mr. Garvey returned to the East, to complete his arrangements for making Kansas the field of his future labors.

A. G. Adams, F. W. Giles, J. F. Merriam, D. H. Horne and S. E. Martin were constituted a committee to solicit subscriptions of funds to pay the expenses of the building, while A. G. Adams, John Ritchie and T. McIntyre were appointed to see to its erection. The building was in due time erected, on the southeast corner of Kansas avenue and Fifth street. It was the first frame building erected in Topeka of sawed lumber, and through many successive repairs and remodelings it stands in usefulness to-day.

In addition to his newspaper press and furniture, Mr. Garvey brought to Topeka a large quantity and almost an endless variety of merchandise, besides his family and household furniture; all to be accommodated in the little publishing house or on the prairie. The prairie accomodated the larger share, the broad grounds of Kansas avenue, south of Fifth street, now the busy scene of hurrying vehicles, being strewn with furniture, beds, bedding, books, carpets, clothing, medicines, boots and shoes, and numerous other commodities, half hidden by the tall grass, and for weeks and weeks they blackened or bleached, and smoked and steamed, under the alternating influences of dews and showers and burning sun. Mr. Garvey made all haste to enlarge his premises, and on the first of September, by dint of hard pressing, succeeded in getting his family, and most of his remaining merchandise and furniture, under shelter. And not these alone, but during the constitutional convention, which assembled in the succeeding month, he furnished bed and board to a large number of its members. His place was styled the "Garvey House." The post office was kept there, and for the time it constituted the political and commercial center, besides being publishing house and hotel.

Mr. Garvey named his paper *The Kansas Freeman.* The first number was issued on the 4th of July, 1855. During the session of the somewhat famous constitutional convention held at Topeka in the autumn of 1855, the *Freeman* was published as a daily, and published the proceedings of the convention. It was published as a weekly thereafter till the spring of 1856.

A literary society was organized in Topeka as as early as the fall of 1855, under the name of "The Kansas Philomathic Institute," its most active members being James Cowels, Henry Waters, J. C. Miller, L. C. Wilmarth, Harris Stratton, Loring Farnsworth, S. N. Frazier, S. E. Martin, Mrs. Maria Martin, the Misses Carrie and Julia Whiting, and Miss S. C. Harlan. Its purpose was for self-improvement, by contribution of literary compositions, public readings, music, the accumulation of a library, and dramatic study. Assistance was rendered to it by the Topeka Association, in the donation of town lots.

The institute published a weekly paper, devoted chiefly to the contributions of its members upon literary and social topics; thus affording them great advantages in their isolation from the established institutions to which they had been accustomed in their Eastern homes. It maintained itself creditably through the trying times of 1856 and 1857, and on the 2d of April, 1858, gave the first dramatic representation given in Topeka. The play was "The Drunkard;" the place Museum Hall, in the Ritchie block, southeast corner of Kansas and Sixth avenues. The acting was very creditable generally, and that of Dr. Charles King, in the leading part, was quite a surprise. The institute continued during the summer of 1858, and gave other dramatic performances. It collected the first library in any respect public, in Topeka, which, with the records of the institute, were destroyed by fire, on the occasion of the burning of the Ritchie block, November 28, 1869.

THE KANSAS MAGAZINE.

On the first of January, 1872, appeared the first number of the above-named periodical, issued by a corporation organized at Topeka for this special work, and having the title of Kansas Magazine Publishing Company. It appeared as a hundred page monthly, under the editorial charge of Capt. Henry King, and in typographical execution and general make-up was equal to any similar publication in the country. It was an extraordinary literary venture considering the locality of its publication, and originated in the very general belief that the standard of literary acquirements and taste in Kansas at that date were, for reasons incident in some degree to the stormy events of her history, higher than in most communities. The State at large at once took a pride in the publication, and gave it a support equal to expectations. Its contributors were mostly of Kansas men and women. Their articles were highly creditable in scholarship and style, and peculiarly adapted to the taste of the people of the West. The field was too contracted, however, for a publication of its standard to long survive, and its life terminated with the October number, 1873. The magazine served a valuable purpose in many ways, but in none more valuable than as a medium for the writers and scholars of the State to become acquainted with each other.

At the close of the year 1885, there were published at Topeka: The *Capital*, daily and weekly; the *Commonwealth*, daily and weekly; the *Citizen*, daily; the *Kansas State Journal*, daily and weekly; *Volksfreund*, (German,) daily; *Kansas Farmer*, weekly; *Kansas Methodist*, weekly; *Telegraph*, (German,) weekly; *Western Baptist*, weekly; *Churchman*, (Episcopal,) monthly; *North Topeka Mail*, weekly; *North Topeka News*, weekly; *Boycotter*, weekly; *Light*, (Masonic,) monthly; *Lance*, weekly; *Faithful Witness*, monthly; *Knight and Soldier*, monthly; *Kansas Law Journal*, weekly; *City and Farm Record*, monthly; *New Paths in the Far West*, (German,) monthly; *Western School Journal*, monthly; *Association Facts*, (Y. M. C. A.,) monthly; *Argo*, (college journal,) monthly; *Fire and Hammer*, (faith cure,) weekly; *The Free Kansan*, (temperance,) weekly; *Topeka Business College Journal*, monthly.

For the quarter ending December 31, 1885, 45,083 pounds of newspaper matter were passed outward through the post office, the postage on the same amounting to $450.83.

Theatrical representations had been given in Wilmarth's Hall, at the southeast corner of Kansas and Sixth avenues, and at other places, perhaps, by citizens of the town; but it was not till the autumn of 1869 that the first dramatic stage was erected with curtain and scenic appliances. The locality of this was in Union Hall, being the second story of a building constructed by Messrs. Shorb, Tinker and Baker, on lots Nos. 197, 199 and 201 Kansas avenue, in 1868, and the second story of which was of suitable height for such purpose. The moving spirit in the matter of stage decorations was Maj. T. J. Anderson, at the time local agent of the Union Pacific Railroad. The design of the stage curtain—suggested by Anderson and executed by Worrall—was unique, historical, biographical, and duly considerate of the financial problem. At the top of the curtain, and extending quite across it, was the representation of a train of the U. P. Railroad, the engine at full speed, throwing off a cloud of smoke and a jet of steam that indicated enormous pressure and a frightful screech.

In addition to the power of the engine to haul the train of five or six cars that followed, they were provided with ponderous wings, seemingly sufficient not only to propel the train, but equally so in the air as upon the earth. Upon the field of the curtain was represented the streets of Topeka, showing great commercial industry, and upon its borders the cards of business houses—for a due consideration. Upon the lower left corner appeared a representation, in vivid colors, of the colossal and well known figure of the defunct Gov. Burnett, the last chief of the Pottawatomie nation; and upon the opposite corner the half-doubled form of "Kaw Charley," an eccentric half-breed Kaw Indian, of idiotic and drunken inheritances, who for many years by his ludicrous gyrations and whoops upon the streets made sport for boys and idlers, was represented as vigorously ringing a big dinner bell—presumably to warn the people that the flying train was about to alight.

Costa's Opera House succeeded Union Hall, upon lots 194 and 196 Kansas avenue, the somewhat famous locality of the Gale block, where "Old Hib" kept his meat market; where Topeka in the early times did her quarterly voting, and especially her voting upon the question of locating the State capital; where the first State Legislature convened; where the first United States Senators were chosen; where State officers were tried in high court of impeachment for high crimes and misdemeanors in selling the first issue of Kansas State bonds; and where occurred many other events important to the times current. There Mr. Lorenzo Costa built the first play house, properly so called, in 1870, and it was opened to public dramatic representations the 12th of January, 1871.

L. M. Crawford bought the property in 1880, made extensive alterations and improvements, and the first representation under his management was given on the 3d of September. On the 2d of December in the same year the building was destroyed by fire. In the succeeding summer Mr. Crawford erected upon the premises the very fine building now standing there, and under the style of "Crawford's Opera House," provided Topeka with one of the neatest play houses to be found in the country.

In 1881, the enterprise of the Grand Opera House was undertaken by an incorporated company, on lots Nos. 193, 195 and 197 Jackson street. The basement story was built the same season, and the main edifice in the succeeding summer. It was opened to the public in September, 1882. This is the largest and best-proportioned theatre in the State, having a stage of about equal capacity of any in the country, and a seating capacity for 1,500 persons.

STORMS, FLOODS AND EARTHQUAKES.

MUCH has been said of the climatic changes that have taken place in Kansas since its settlement, thirty years ago, but I suppose no one who has not been a constant observer of the passing changes has a true conception of their character and extent, and before one could have, it would be necessary to have an appreciation of the preëxisting conditions, terrestrial as well as climatic. We have no data by which to estimate the period of time past since these plains were beneath the sea, since they were clothed with forests, nor yet, since they were, in fact, what early geographers supposed them to be—barren deserts. The earliest Spanish explorer found them, "Mighty plains and sandy heaths, smooth and wearisome, and bare of wood," and three hundred years afterwards the settlers found them the same, save the "sandy heaths;" no mountains, and no extensive levels away from the river valleys, but everywhere the surface rolling, in in ever-varying, never-tiring undulations; the soil clayey, compact, tenacious, and covered with a luxuriant growth of grasses; deep and oft-recurring water-courses, dry half the year, leading out to the right and left, from the rivers coursing their way to the east.

In the year 1855, it was August before any considerable amount of rain fell, and the few settlers of that time began to feel despondent over the chances in their newly-chosen homes. But there were showers in reserve for them, quite as startling as the preceding drouth had been. Most annoying were the generally prevailing winds, sweeping up from the south, hot and parching, like simoons of Araby; the earth dry, and hard almost as bricks. Fissures of an inch or two in breadth, opening down for three or four feet, were of frequent occurrence.

The coming of a storm was generally heralded by a hard, steady blow from the south for three days, and day by day increasing in velocity. Towards the close of the third day, a cloud would appear in the northwest—an object of interest for its rarity, an object of dread from its prophecy. As the sun went down to the horizon, the twilight of evening, usually so long and so pleasant, bore a strange hue, and for considerable time after the sun had disappeared its rays lighted up the great overhanging field of darkness, as no painter would dare to imitate. A calm had succeeded the scorching wind, and a sense of loneliness and fear pervaded the household. As darkness closed down upon the scene, the clouds were threaded with a tracery of electric flashes, nowhere else seen with such vividness and blinding glare as on the plains, and stunning thunder blasts rolled away in repeating cadence, till lost in distant murmur.

Suddenly a new element appears. A roar of wind is heard from the direction the clouds have come, portentous that the storm-burst is near. The family, as a crew on shipboard, hurry to make ready for the approaching climax, and within the cabin, all openings closed and well fastened, await the coming blast. Heavy drops of rain rattle on the roof, and the cabin trembles before the wind. Everything movable about the yard goes tumbling away, and torrents pour down like cataracts. The dry and compact earth cannot absorb the water, and it flows, inches in depth everywhere, away towards the deep ravine.

On the succeeding morning, the water-courses are full, and the bottoms overflown. So great depths of rainfall would sometimes occur as are seldom seen even in the tropic zone; even a depth of four, six, or more inches, in as many hours, having in the early days of settlement been registered.

Rain storms in Kansas were of rare occurrence thirty years ago, but when they did occur they were upon a scale of sublime magnificence. Nowhere was the lightning flash more intense, and nowhere the thunder roll more deep or prolonged. Nowhere could man be more profoundly impressed with the presence of his Maker than on such occasions.

It is easily perceived that when these great storms were general over the area of the thousands of square miles drained by the western tributaries of the Mississippi river, their banks would be everywhere overflown, and the "father of waters" would become a sea of a thousand miles in length. Such an event occurred in 1844. On that occasion the Kansas river bottoms were flooded for its entire length. At the site of Topeka, the river's breadth was from the line of Third street on the south to the bluffs two miles to the north of its usual channel; the water standing to the depth of twenty feet, where now, in the first ward of Topeka, dwell three thousand people. Such a flood now would destroy many million dollars' worth of property in the first and second wards of Topeka.

On the 24th of April, 1867, at about three o'clock in the afternoon, the day being warm, with a clear sky, there occurred an earthquake, quite perceptible throughout Kansas and Missouri, and at some localities producing remarkable phenomena. The writer was at his place of business, at No. 185 Kansas avenue. His first impressions were that some heavy object, as an iron safe, was being rapidly rolled over the floor in rooms above. Such an occurrence would ordinarily have produced no very marked effect upon the nerves; but in this case there must have been some other influence operating, for, at the instant of its being first noticed, there came an irresistible inclination to get out of doors as soon as possible, and this he proceeded to do, as did all in the bank, one man going over the counter with the agility of a professional tumbler. As we reached the sidewalk, we were a good deal amazed to see many people rushing out of their places of business upon the sidewalk—those from the upper rooms getting down stairs quite regardless of the ordinary rules of decorum.

All up and down the street the people stood gazing in silence upon others on the opposite side, until a consciousness of the cause of their disturbance relieved in a measure their anxiety; and then the ludicrous phase of the scene moved them to mirthfulness. No considerable damage was done, but an incident occurred at the Methodist Episcopal church, on Quincy street, an account of which was published at the time by the Rev. John D. Knox, as follows:

> The house was densely crowded with men, women and children, attending the funeral services of brother H. S. Herr, who died very suddenly. He was a worthy member of the M. E. church, and an active and highly-esteemed member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, and a member of the band. The fraternity and band were present to participate in the services and bury our brother in the honors of the order, as well as the church of his choice. I had just commenced to preach, and was speaking of the fact that we had many monitors to warn us of our approaching end; that the withering grass, the fading flowers, the falling leaf, the pains of our bodies, and our dead friends, all remind us that we are marching to the grave. All eyes were fixed upon the speaker. To an extent his feelings were deep and solemn, and all seemed to feel as if the grave was gaping to receive us. When the word "marching" was uttered, there was a strange. rumbling sound, and then a rocking of the church. The first thought was that a wagon was rolling by, then that some one was shaking the floor, then that the bell was coming down to the earth, smashing everything before it, then that the spire was falling through the ceiling. My thoughts were many and strange. I looked up: the stovepipes were shaking, the lamps swinging, and the ceiling was bending up and down,

and swaying to and fro. Just then there was a sound like the crash of buildings, and an upward heaving of the floor, with which the congregation suddenly sprang to their feet, pale with fear and fright. The lid of the coffin was not tight on, and it shook considerably, and some thought the dead man had come to life. The colored people cleared the gallery in double quick, and the people rushed for the doors, and some for the windows. A few of the windows were raised, and others broken out, with a haste and desperation beggaring description, while men and women went pell mell out of them. One woman was trampled on the floor and hurt some, but, strange indeed, no one was hurt much. Some screamed in terror, while one woman shouted "glory," thinking the judgment day had come. The mass of the people were unwilling to return into the church, but some fifty remained, the others hurrying off to their homes.

Altogether, the visitation was an exciting one, and memorable to those experiencing it; an experience such as they had not had before, and well calculated to enable them to realize the consternation with which ignorant and superstitious people look upon such events. Once is enough to satisfy the curiosity of any people, I think.

A local paper of Nov. 15, 1877, says that persons who were engaged in the upper story of the Santa Fé depot stated that about ten minutes before twelve o'clock they felt a shock of earthquake, which made the building rock gently from north to south. In one room there were three gentlemen, and all of a sudden each found the others looking at him, and asking, "What is that?" In other rooms nearly the same thing happened, all saying they felt very dizzy or seasick, and rushed to the window to see if there was a train passing. Not an engine or train was in sight, and some one said, "Earthquake." In one room a door was slammed shut, and some say the chairs rocked. In the shops the shock was also felt, but not down stairs in the depot building. We talked with several gentlemen in the building, and all agree that it was an earthquake. We have, however, been unable to find any one up town who felt it, except a colored man who thought he heard it, but at the time supposed it was the report of two guns which had been discharged. A lady who came in on the Santa Fé train said that while she was sitting in the depot at Lawrence she felt something, but didn't know what it was.

THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

THE founders of Topeka were impressed with the importance of early and well-grounded provisions for common schools. The subject was before the Topeka Association on the 2d and 8th of February, 1856, and on the 20th of that month the association appointed Mr. Amos Trott to the work of making a plan for a school house, and to solicit subscriptions from the townspeople, to the amount of $200, towards building it.

The association also levied an assessment of $5 on each of the one hundred shares of its stock for the same purpose, at about that time.

On the 21st of March, the association directed its trustees "to select two lots in the vicinity of Sixth and Topeka avenues, to be set aside for a school-house site." A lot, as then designated, meant a tract seventy-five feet front by one hundred and fifty feet deep, and the grounds set aside under this order of the association comprised what are now known as lots Nos. 194 to 204 inclusive, on Harrison street. The title was conveyed by deed of the association to the city, on the 16th of January, 1863.

Political troubles thickened upon the little Free-

State town so rapidly, that attention to building school houses and establishing schools was necessarily left in abeyance for the time, and all energies were directed to the procurement of subsistence and the defense of families.

About the first of September, 1855, Miss Sarah C. Harlan, now widow of Mr. Joseph F. Cummings, was engaged to teach, and a school was opened in a little "shake" shanty, at about the locality of No. 82 Madison street, and the session continued till the snows of winter, driving through the rude and unwarmed shanty, rendered its further continuance impossible.

Of those who succeeded Miss Harlan in this very early time, were Miss Carrie Whiting, now Mrs. L. C. Wilmarth, and Miss Jennie Allen, now Mrs. I. E. Perley. Miss Whiting taught, we think, at irregular periods during two or three years. Miss Allen, in the spring and summer of 1856, held a school in "Constitution Hall," till it became necessary for the room to be vacated preparatory to the assembling of the Legislature under the Topeka constitution, which body in turn was required to vacate, on the 4th of July, 1856, before United States troops, under command of General Sumner —Franklin Pierce, President.

We think no attempt was made towards maintaining a school in the autumn of 1856. The political atmosphere was too dark.

The Topeka Association had pledged a large interest in its town enterprise to the Massachusetts Emigrant Aid Company, upon condition among others, that it would erect for the town one or more school houses, and this arrangement had been accepted by the Aid Company, though nothing was done about building till the summer of 1857. In that year the Aid Company erected a brick building, about eighteen by twenty-four feet, and two stories, on the rear end of lots Nos. 145, 147 and 149 Harrison street—fronting on Fifth street. The completion of this little building, the first school house in Topeka, was an event of interest and an occasion of rejoicing.

From that time forward, schools were maintained with some degree of regularity, though altogether dependent for support upon voluntary contributions, till the year 1862. The machinery of the Territorial government never worked with sufficient smoothness to yield a public revenue for any purpose at Topeka.

Under the system of districting for educational purposes, adopted in Shawnee county, the city of Topeka constituted district No. 23. We have been unable to find any record of its proceedings, except such suggestions as could be gleaned from a treasurer's book, dating back to 1863. From that we learn that the amount received from the county treasurer, from July, 1863 to July, 1864, was $2,340.45; and for the year next succeeding, the disbursement for teachers' wages was the aggregate sum of $1,628.00, and for incidental expenses, $527.11.

Entries appear upon the treasurer's book for rent paid in the year 1864, to the amount of $100.00.

The room rented for school purposes in that year is supposed to have been what was at that time known as "Baptist Hall," being the second story of the building owned and occupied by Joseph C. Miller, Esq., for mercantile purposes—No. 191 Kansas avenue.

We have omitted to mention that a school was kept in parts of the years 1859 and 1860, in chambers at the southeast corner of Kansas and Sixth avenues, known at the time as "Museum Hall." It is probable that the Aid Company school building was insufficient to accommodate the pupils of the town within two years after its construction, in 1857.

A revenue for school purposes was first raised by public taxation in 1862. As early as 1863, provision must have been made for creating a building fund, for in July, 1864, the district officers reported $1,594.53 on hand for such purpose.

In 1865, the Harrison street school building was erected, that being the first constructed at the expense of the city. We are not able to give the size of the building, but its cost was $8,000, and for the time a pretty nice affair. The site was the same donated by the Topeka Association, in 1856. It had been supposed that this house would be sufficiently commodious to answer all requirements of the kind for several years, but in reality the number of school children increased in the city during the period of its construction to about the extent of its capacity, and the necessity of obtaining rooms for school purposes continued. In the fall of that year, a little wooden building on the south side of Sixth avenue, between Kansas avenue and Quincy street, was hired, and a school opened for colored children, under the care of Miss Maybe, and in 1866 the colored school was put in the attic of the building, and the lower room used for white children, under instruction by Miss Gilbert, now Mrs. G. C. Foss. "Baptist Hall" was also used for school purposes in 1866, and in 1867 a school was held in the Gale block—site of Crawford's Opera House. A school was also held in the basement of the building on the southwest corner of Kansas avenue and Seventh street at various periods.

By a law of the State, passed in 1867, the schools were placed under the supervision of a board of school commissioners. The first board elected under this law was composed of David Brockway, L. C. Wilmarth, W. H. Butterfield and John Guthrie. It held its first meeting on the 24th of May of that year. Mr. Brockway was chosen president of the board, and L. C. Wilmarth secretary. The law provided for a superintendent of schools, and W. H. Butterfield was chosen to that position. The board found the schools occupying the Aid Company house, Harrison street house, two or three buildings under lease, and an urgent demand for more room.

On the 18th of June, the board directed its clerk to make inquiry whether it was practicable to attempt to raise money for building purposes by a sale of district bonds, and at the same date a committee was appointed to see if a building could be rented for school purposes in Eugenia (first ward), or whether a house could be erected there by the sale of school bonds.

On the 5th of July, an order was made to rent a building used for religious purposes by the colored people, at No. 232 Kansas avenue, for holding a school for colored children. Also an order to procure plans for a school house 24x40 feet in Eugenia. Also an order to negotiate a purchase of the brick church at No. 230 Kansas avenue—the first Presbyterian church erected in Topeka.

On the 11th of July, plans were adopted for a building in Eugenia, and the clerk directed to take possession of the building at No. 128 Kansas avenue —the "Cruise" property—for school purposes. The house was erected in Eugenia that year, at an expense of $1,350.00, and the school year closed with an estimate by the school commissioners that the requirements of 1868 for school purposes would be $9,200.00.

The year 1867 had been one of continuous anxiety with the school board, from the pressing demands for more room, more teachers, and more money for the schools, and 1868 dawned upon them with no prospect of relief. Supported, however, by an enlightened public sentiment, that would entertain no thought of relief but by supplying the demand, the board went boldly on to do what could be done. The embarrassment of the board was still further increased by the sale of the Aid Company house, in the spring of 1868, by which it became unavailable for school purposes.

On the 10th of July, 1868, the city voted an appropriation of $10,000.00 for the purpose of purchasing sites for school buildings, and on the same day contracts were entered into for an addition to the Harrison school building, at an expenditure of $4,000.00. In September, the board hired buildings at No. 51 Monroe street, and at No. 241 Kansas avenue. At the close of 1868, notwithstanding the enlargement of the Harrison street house, the city had under rent at least four buildings for school purposes.

On the 5th of May, 1869, the board determined upon the erection of more spacious accommodations for the schools, and asked the city to vote an appropriation of $40.000.00 for that purpose, which request the citizens unhesitatingly granted, as they have every similar recommendation since.

On the 13th of July, lots Nos. 50, 52, 54 Monroe street were purchased, and a building contracted for at a cost of $2,300.

On the 23d of August, the site of Lincoln school, southeast corner of Monroe and Fifth streets, was purchased, at a cost of $2,500, and in the fall of that year a site was purchased and a school house built on the corner of Quincy and Thirteenth streets, at a cost of $2,300. At that time the city had under rent for school purposes buildings at Nos. 110, 128, 191 and 241 Kansas avenue, at No. 51 Monroe street, and a church building on the "bottom." Lincoln school building was under contract, at $34,449, and the year closed with an estimated requirement for school purposes the ensuing year of $12,600.

The Lincoln school building was not carried forward in construction with the dispatch that had been expected, and at length it was found that there had been such mismanagement by the contractor that the building could not be completed short of a further appropriation, and the final cost to the city, for lots and building, was about $55,000.

In the beginning of 1870, the demand for more school room in the first ward necessitated arrangements with an adjacent country district for the use of its house, and during all that year the necessity for hired buildings continued.

In 1871, a fine brick house was erected on the southeast corner of Quincy and Gordon streets. The cost of the house and lots was $18,000, and on the 15th of April, 1872, it was accepted by the school board with special satisfaction. This building was subsequently doubled in its capacity, at an expense of about $10.000.

The Lincoln building was completed in the fall of 1871, and at about the same time the Washburn school building, at the northeast corner of Jackson street and Tenth avenue, was purchased from Washburn College, for the sum of $15,000.

In the fall of 1872, a lot was purchased and temporary accommodations prepared for a school to be held on Clay street, at an expense of $325.

Thus at the close of 1872 there were owned and occupied for school purposes: The Harrison street house, in its enlarged capacity; the Quincy street house; the Clay street house; the Washburn building; the Thirteenth street property, and Lincoln school building. It was then thought that these afforded ample room for all the school children of the city, and that from the burdens of school-house building the citizens might reasonably anticipate exemption, for some years at least.

During 1873 and 1874 these expectations were realized, but in 1875 there came up a voice from the western part of the city that could not be pacified without better school facilities.

The first ward building had been regarded as the most satisfactory expenditure of any that had been made, and it was determined to build a similar house on Clay street. An appropriation of $8,000 was made, and the house completed about the close of the year 1875, to the general satisfaction of the school board and citizens of that locality. The expenditures of Topeka for school buildings and furniture had been $155,000 in ten years.

By act of the Legislature in 1872, the management of school interests was from that time vested in a board of education, consisting of two members to be elected from each of the four wards of the city. The number of teachers employed in 1875 was twenty-eight, and the aggregate salaries about $16,000 a year, or an average of $571 each. The capacity of the seven buildings was something over 2,000, and by dint of crowding and occasionally hiring extra space all further expense for the construction of school buildings was avoided till 1880. In that year, however, the necessity for more space was such that the brick buildings at the southeast corner of Madison and Second streets, and at the northeast corner of Western avenue and Fourth street, and also the stone building at the southeast corner of Polk and Twelfth streets, had to be erected. The first two named had each a capacity for 240 pupils, and the last named a capacity for 360. The three buildings were constructed at a cost, inclusive of the sites, of $25,310.

In 1881, were erected frame buildings at the northwest corner of Kansas avenue and Laurent street, with capacity for sixty scholars; one at the northeast corner of Branner and Third streets, with a capacity for 240 scholars, and one on Lake street, between Eighth and Tenth avenues—the three at a cost of $11,400; and then a rest again, till 1885.

In 1885, the deficiency of school room was such that the board of education asked permission to issue bonds to the amount of $50,000, to be expended in the erection of new houses and the enlargement of old ones, and the appropriation was conceded at a popular election, by a vote of more than two to one.

In that year the old Harrison school building, the first school building erected by the city, and the capacity of which had been doubled in 1868, was demolished, and a very fine brick edifice with stone ornamentations was erected upon the old site—then a lovely grove—with a capacity of 480 scholars, and at an expense of $20,000. Also there were erected in the same year a brick house on Buchanan street, with capacity for 240 scholars, and at a cost of $8,000; a house of brick, beautifully ornamented with blue sandstone, on Grant street, with a capacity of 480 scholars, at a cost of $23,000; one on Douglas street, at a cost of something over $2,500; and at the close of the year the Jackson building underwent extensive repairs and improvements. The city had, at the close of 1885, fifteen school houses, of seating capacity for 4,000 scholars, and of an aggregate valuation of over $183,000. Nearly all of the buildings were substantially constructed of stone or brick, on spacious grounds, of architectural proportions and finish, and provided with the best-known appliances for seating, lighting, warming, ventilation and instruction. In addition to the public schools, there were in 1885 private schools of a collective attendance of about 200; the school connected with the Church of the Assumption, with an enrollment of 255; Washburn and Bethany Colleges, with an attendance of 600 pupils.

The school population and the enrollment during the decade closing with the year 1885 was as follows:

Year.	*Population.*	*Enrollment.*	*Year.*	*Population.*	*Enrollment.*
1876	2,506	1,580	1881	5,561	3,111
1877	2,562	1,735	1882	6,890	3,917
1878	2,816	1,884	1883	7,031	4,552
1879	3,743	2,019	1884	7,084	4,447
1880	4,728	2,937	1885	8,427	5,062

The slight increase of school population in 1884 over that of 1883 was attributable to the detachment from the city for school purposes of Ritchie's addition and other suburbs on the south, the school population of which was, in 1885, 880.

The number of teachers employed in 1885 was sixty-four, with an average monthly salary of $52.00.

Since the organization of the school system, in 1867, the following named gentlemen have served as superintendents:

W. H. Butterfield, from 1867 to 1869.
J. A. Banfield, " 1869 " 1871.
A. W. Haines, " 1871 " 1872.
W. H. Butterfield, " 1872 " 1881.
D. C. Tillotson, " 1881 " 1886.

The superintendent receives a salary of $1,500 a year.

The board of education is composed of twelve members, three being chosen from each of the four wards, and of which they must be residents, though elective by general ticket. They receive no salary for their services.

The position of clerk of the board of education has been filled as follows:

From 1867 to 1869, by L. C. Wilmarth.
" 1869 " 1871, " John A. Banfield.
" 1871 " 1872, " E. B. Fowler.
" 1872 " 1875, " R. H. C. Searle.
" 1875 " 1876, " T. H. Church.
" 1876 " 1886, " H. W. Farnsworth.

The annual salary paid to the clerk, at the date of this writing, is $650.

The current expenses of the schools of the city for the year 1885 were something above $33,000.

In South Topeka, a frame school building was erected on Van Buren street in 1885, of capacity for 150 pupils, at a cost of $8,800. The Thirteenth street house, built by the city proper, fell within the jurisdiction of South Topeka, and was in use by that corporation.

THE TOPEKA CEMETERY.

As death is a subject seldom considered till its dread presence is before us, so cemeteries are seldom provided in newly-organized communities till occasion for them has many times arisen.

The first death at Topeka was from cholera, and it occurred, probably, in the month of July, in 1855. This disease had prevailed with considerable virulence at Fort Riley in the summer of that year, and was of occasional occurrence at other localities in the Territory, two or three occurring in the vicinity of Topeka, of men who had been temporarily stopping at Fort Riley, and a little alarm was felt lest Kansas might prove an unhealthy country. But from that year to the present, we have no recollection of a death in Kansas from cholera.

It was quite impossible at that early date to procure title to land, and hence almost a necessity of making interments at some place whence exhumation and re-interment would be necessary. Under these circumstances, the best that could be done was to use the public street—or rather grounds that it was designed should become a public street. The locality thought to be least likely to be needed for travel for some years, was on Kansas avenue, at about its intersection with Tenth avenue. That locality was therefore selected for this first burial, and for others thereafter, for nearly five years.

The subject of providing grounds for burial of the dead was several times considered by the city council in 1858 and in 1859. On the 31st of March, in the first-named year, Councilman Gordon moved that a committee consisting of J. A. Hickey and W. W. Ross be appointed, to "provide and report a suitable place for burial ground," and on the 9th of January, 1859, the committee reported that D. H. Horne would sell "two acres for a 'potter's field,' at $50 per acre, and that said Horne would give exclusive jurisdiction over eight acres more," and the committee was authorized to contract with Mr. Horne on those terms, but nothing more seems to have come of it.

Dr. F. L. Crane, conceiving that the high grounds east of the city, now devoted to purposes of sepulture, and which were owned by him, would be as appropriate as any available for that purpose, procured a charter under the title of "The Topeka Cemetery," on the 2d of February, 1859, A. F. Whiting, Joseph C. Miller, and other citizens, with himself, being named as corporators. Repeated meetings of the corporators were called, but usually only two or three persons attended. Their advice was that Dr. Crane should assume full responsibility and control of the enterprise, and this, rather from necessity than desire, he did.

The grounds were platted and opened for use in the spring of 1859. The first burial there was of Mrs. Marcia Gordon, deceased wife of W. L. Gordon, about the 20th of December in that year.

A year or two after, the bodies buried at the intersection of Kansas and Tenth avenues—near the southeast corner—were exhumod, and re-interred at the cemetery, partly at the expense of individuals; but the city paid the undertaker—Elnathan Trask—for services in that behalf, the sum of $111.

On the 19th of October, 1877, a new charter was taken, and in the organization Geo. D. Hale was elected to the position of president, and F. L. Crane secretary and superintendent.

The position of president is still retained by Mr. Hale, the other offices being filled by Dr. Crane's sons, D. O. and Geo. W., who are carrying out the wishes of the Doctor, as expressed before his death. In addition to their own services, they have employed seven competent persons by the year, who, with the assistance of several heavy teams, have improved and beautified the grounds very much. In addition to the many other improvements, the macadamized roads, and the new entrance from the Tenth avenue road, give our beautiful cemetery a permanent and metropolitan appearance. On the death of Dr. Crane, his sons, who fell heir to most of the cemetery stock, resolved to devote all the proceeds from the cemetery to its permanent improvement; up to the present time several thousand dollars have been thus expended, over and above the receipts; and in addition, a large piece of ground adjoining the cemetery on the south has been purchased, to provide for further enlargement.

The general arrangement of the grounds remains as fixed by Dr. Crane twenty-five years ago.

POSTAL FACILITIES.

A LACK of postal facilities during the first winter was a sore deprivation. Kansas City was the nearest point at which settlers could receive or deposit mail matter, and with that no regular communication existed. Two to four weeks was the usual time between dates of receiving Eastern newspapers.

Application was made for the establishment of a post route from Kansas City to Lawrence and Topeka during the winter of 1854–5, through Gov. Reeder, who was prompt to make the wants of citizens known.

About the middle of March, F. W. Giles received a commission as postmaster at Topeka. The first United States mail under lock was received at Topeka on the first day of May, 1855, but no regular service was established for some months afterwards, the mail being carried between Topeka and Lawrence by Mr. Hathaway, who ran a small wagon for the transportation of light freight and passengers.

Towards fall a regular service was established weekly, by four-horse coaches, between Kansas City and Fort Riley, crossing the river at Topeka, and supplying a regular mail service to the town.

Mr. Giles kept the office during the fore part of the summer at the house of Mr. Sidney J. Case, on Quincy street, near Second street, east side, but toward autumn removed it to a small building—the first framed building erected—on the southeast corner of Kansas avenue and Fifth street.

E. C. K. Garvey succeeded to the office in the spring of 1857, and continued the office at the same place, Mr. C. C. Kellam being in immediate charge.

In 1858, Mr. Kellam succeeded Mr. Garvey, and being required to immediately remove the office from Mr. Garvey's building, he provided temporary accommodations near by, and a few weeks after established the office at the southeast corner of Kansas and Sixth avenues, where he had caused provision for it to be made far superior to any that the town had previously had.

The mail service at Topeka in 1859 was as follows:

Eastern mail: Due daily at 12:30 P. M.; close daily at 12 M.

Topeka and Leavenworth mail: Due daily at 7 P. M., and close daily at 8 P. M.

Topeka and Sumner, *via* Grasshopper Falls: Due Wednesdays at 7 P. M.; close Mondays at 5 A. M.

Topeka and Fort Riley—south side of river: Due Thursdays at 10 P. M.; close Mondays at 5 A. M.

Topeka and Emporia, *via* Burlingame: Due Thursdays at 10 P. M.; close Mondays at 5 A. M.

Topeka and Council Grove: Due Thursdays at 10 P. M.; close Mondays at 5 A. M.

Topeka and Brownsville, Nebraska: Due Thursdays at 6 P. M.; close Mondays at 5 A. M.

Topeka and Williamsport: Due Thursdays at 5 P. M.; close Mondays at 5 A. M.

Topeka and Rulo, Nebraska: Due Wednesdays, Fridays and Sundays at 10 P. M.; close Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays at 5 A. M.

In the same year, there were established a line direct between Topeka and Atchison, and a daily line from Topeka, *via* Lecompton, to St. Joseph, Mo.

Mr. Samuel Fletcher succeeded Mr. Kellam in 1861, and held the office eight years. During portions of his administration the office was kept successively at Nos. 147, 181 and 194 Kansas avenue, and during the last few years at No. 104 Sixth avenue east, at which place it was destroyed by fire on the last day of his incumbency—the 3d of April, 1869. The *Topeka Daily Record*, published by F. P. Baker, in the same building, was also destroyed. This was the most destructive fire that Topeka had had.

Maj. H. W. Farnsworth succeeded Mr. Fletcher, and opened the office at No. 129 Kansas avenue, and it remained there about three months, when a new building at No. 104 Sixth avenue east being completed, it was returned to that place.

Capt. Henry King succeeded Maj. Farnsworth the 1st day of May, 1873, and about the 1st of July in the same year moved the office to No. 136 Kansas avenue.

Maj. T. J. Anderson succeeded Capt. King, on May 1st, 1881, and continued the office at No. 136 till the 1st of March, 1885, when it was removed to the United States building, at the northeast corner of Kansas avenue and Fifth street.

John Mileham succeeded Maj. Anderson on the 1st of May, 1885.

The free delivery system was established at Topeka on the 1st of October, 1879. The number of street letter boxes at that time was forty-five, and the number of carriers eight, with an aggregate salary of $6,800 a year, collection and delivery of mail matter being made three times a day. The North Topeka office was discontinued, and a branch of the Topeka office established there instead, with money order and delivery service as in other parts of the city. The population of Topeka at the date of establishing the free delivery system was about 11,000—said at the time to be less than of any city in the United States where the system had been previously established; and was only conceded by the Department from the fact of the extraordinary amount of business done, and profits realized—the net profits to the Department being at that time $80,000 a year—more, not only than of any other town in Kansas, but more than was paid by any other city of not more than *double* its population in the United States.

The business of the year 1885 was as follows:

Value of postal notes issued	$14,905 86	
Value of postal notes paid	35,581 46	$50,487 32
Value of money orders issued	$149,379 08	
Value of money orders paid	317,747 57	467,126 65
		$517,613 97
Gross receipts		62,433 25
Net receipts		43,455 46

THE FEDERAL BUILDING.

ON the 5th of March, 1878, a bill had passed both houses of Congress making provision for the purchase of a site and the erection of a United States court house and post office building at Topeka.

The knowledge of this event caused unusual joy at Topeka. It was a victory in the right over the city of Leavenworth.

By provisions of the act of Congress, an appropriation of $10,000 was made with which to purchase a site for the building, and a lively interest at once arose in Topeka as to where in the city the site should be. The points respectively urged as being most eligible were the southwest corner of Sixth avenue and Quincy street; the northeast corner of Kansas avenue and Fifth street, and the southwest corner of Kansas avenue and Seventh street.

About the middle of May, a commission was appointed by the Secretary of the Interior to select and determine where the site should be. The popular sentiment of Topeka seemed to preponderate in favor of the southwest corner of Kansas avenue and Seventh street as the best locality, but property owners in the vicinity of Fifth street raised a fund of $11,000 to be used—ostensibly—in the legitimate way of compensation to the owners of ground there for what was claimed to be its value over and above the amount of the appropriation; suspicions prevailed, however, that a portion at least of the money went to compensate the commissioners for extraordinary labors in finding that locality to be the best.

The work of erecting the building was commenced in the spring of 1879, and the foundations completed that year. In 1880, only a small amount of work was done upon the walls of the building, though work in preparing stone was continued through the year. The building was completed at the close of 1884, and the post office in possession, though the court rooms had been in use some months previously. The expenditure by the Government for the site and the building was $180,000.

Col. John G. Haskell was architect of this building, as he had been of most of the State buildings at Topeka.

COLLEGE OF THE SISTERS OF BETHANY.

THE Rev. Charles M. Callaway, who came to Topeka in 1857 as a missionary of the Episcopal church, from the diocese of Maryland, was also charged with the duty of selecting a suitable site in Kansas for the establishment of a seminary for the education of girls. He made known his authority in that regard, and it was fully in expectation that Topeka would be selected as the place for such seminary, and the Topeka Association donated to Mr. Callaway lots Nos. 272, 274 and 276, on Topeka avenue.

The Rev. Mr. Callaway, in his missionary labors at other points in the Territory, received importunities to locate the school elsewhere, especially at Leavenworth and at Tecumseh; and finally conceiving that the people at Tecumseh were more liberal towards him in proffering a site than Topeka had been, and possibly more congenial socially, for the subject of slavery was a great power in society, and in religion even, in those days, he determined to locate the school there.

Beautiful and spacious grounds were provided, a charter granted by the Legislature, and in 1859 the substructure of a fine school building was in place.

The people of Topeka were deeply grieved by the course Mr. Callaway had taken, and in the spring of 1860 proposals were made to him to abandon his work at Tecumseh, and renew it at Topeka. The spirit of rivalry was then at its height between the two towns, and Topeka was prepared to bid high for advantages. It must have been apparent to Mr. Callaway, too, that her prospects were really more promising than those of Tecumseh. The result of the matter was, that the Topeka Association, in addition to the lots given on Topeka avenue, as previously stated, also gave to Mr. Callaway, for the school, the twenty-acre tract now known as "Bethany square," and which it had designed should be reserved to the city as a public park, and the citizens individually gave some thirty town lots more.

An act of incorporation, under the title of "The Episcopal Female Seminary of Topeka," was passed by the Territorial Legislature on the 29th day of January, 1861, the day on which President Buchanan signed the act of Congress admitting Kansas as a State to the Union, but Gov. Medary returned the bill with objections. After due reconsideration, it was passed by the requisite majority to constitute it a law, the Governor's objections to the contrary notwithstanding, on the second day of February—the last legislative act in the territorial period.

A charter had been previously granted for the institution to be located at Tecumseh; hence the occasion for "of Topeka," in the corporate name.

Doubts existed in subsequent years in regard to the legality of business transacted by the Territorial Legislature after the date of admission as a State to the Union; but the Supreme Court of Kansas held, in 1862, that an act is not invalid by reason of its having been passed on a day after the date of that event.

The corporators were Rev. N. O. Preston, Rush Elmore, Wilson Shannon, Cyrus K. Holliday, J. P. Bodine, George Fairchild and J. E. Ryan. An organization meeting was held at Topeka, on the 2d day of April, 1861, Hon. Wilson Shannon, Judge Rush Elmore, Cyrus K. Holliday and Rev. N. O. Preston being present. Gov. Shannon was chosen president, and Rev. N. O. Preston secretary, *pro tempore.*

The Rev. N. O. Preston succeeded Mr. Callaway as rector of the church at Topeka, in the spring of 1861. School furniture was placed in an available room of the parsonage that had been erected by Mr. Callaway, and Mr. Preston took immediate charge of the institution. The first term was commenced on the 10th of June, 1861, and the average attendance for the first scholastic year was about thirty pupils, mostly from families residing at Topeka.

The institution, as originally organized, was purely diocesan, and by conditions of its charter the trustees were elective by the diocesan convention of the Protestant Episcopal church.

On the 12th of September, 1861, the convention elected as trustees the Rev. Charles Reynolds, John W. Farnsworth, F. W. Giles, Joseph E. Ryan, J. W. Bodine and George Fairchild — Gov. Shannon holding over as president of the institution, and continued in that capacity till relieved by the Rt. Rev. Thomas H. Vail, as bishop of the diocese, and as *ex officio* in charge of its institutions, on the 14th of September, 1864.

The Rev. John N. Lee succeeded Mr. Preston as rector of the parish, on the 11th of June, 1865, and was elected by the board of trustees to the office of principal of the seminary, on the 21st of the same month.

On the 9th of August, 1872, Prof. Lee was elected to the position of president associate, and under that title continued in the active service of the college till the autumn of 1874, when he resigned his official position and removed to Leavenworth. Prior to his taking charge of the school, but little effort had been made to extend its influences beyond the city of Topeka, but during the nine years of his administration it had become popularly known, and was patronized from throughout the State.

The charter by the Territorial Legislature of 1861 of the Episcopal Female Seminary was especially favorable to it in some particulars, but from various reasons the board of trustees thought the interests of the institution might be subserved by waiving that charter, and taking a charter under the general statutes of the State; and in conformity with the public statutes, this change was effected on the 4th of February, 1870.

The diocesan convention, at its session of 1878, formally approved of the action of the trustees in effecting the change of charter, and waived all rights and privileges it might have had over the management of the institution under its original charter.

On the 9th of July, 1872, the name of the institution, agreeably to law in such case provided, was changed to "College of the Sisters of Bethany."

In 1876, the commissioners of Shawnee county levied a tax upon the twenty-acre tract, holding that it was not used for educational purposes in a sense to exempt it under the law from public taxation. The trustees of the college took the case to the courts, and obtained a decision reversing the action of the commissioners.

The work of erecting the central building on the college grounds, known as Wolfe Hall, was commenced in 1870, and finished in the fall of the succeeding year. The first term of the school held there was in the autumn of 1871. Previous to that time, the school had been held at its buildings on Topeka avenue, now owned and occupied by the theological school.

Mr. John D. Wolfe, of New York city, gave $18,000, and his daughter, Miss Catharine L. Wolfe, $14,000, towards the expenses of constructing this building, and hence, very properly, its name—"Wolfe Hall."

The building to the west of Wolfe Hall was known in our city and county, moved with his family from Maine to Kansas. After studying the literature of college resolutions, as preserved in the minutes of the general association, Rev. Mr. Bowker, with a number of other citizens of Topeka, became interested in starting the college so long projected.

The incorporation was effected in February, 1865, under the name of "Lincoln College." A building was erected during the following summer, at a cost of about $8,000, and the school was opened in the fall, with Rev. Samuel D. Bowker as principal, assisted by E. D. Hobart, Esq., now of Las Vegas, New Mexico, and Prof. Geo. H. Collier, now connected with the State University of Oregon.

The building still stands in good state of preservation on the northeast corner of Tenth avenue and Jackson street, and is owned by the city and used as one of the public school buildings.

The first president of the college was Rev. H. Q. Butterfield, D.D., now president of Olivet College, Michigan.

In 1870, the name of the college was changed by the trustees, and called "Washburn College." The change was made for two reasons: *First*, Another institution of learning existed in Pennsylvania by the name of "Lincoln College," founded prior to that in Kansas, and the two often became confounded in the minds of benevolent persons at the East, when desirous of contributing to the endowment of Christian institutions of learning. *Second*, The other was the recognition of the very generous gift of Hon. I. Washburn, of Worcester, Mass., amounting to $25,000, for helping to endow the college. In 1871, after the resignation of Rev. Dr. Butterfield, the trustees called Rev. Dr. McVicar, ex-State Superintendent of Public Instruction, to the presidency. A new building, at a cost of $65,000, was erected in 1872, on the permanent site, southwest of the city. Since then three other buildings have been erected, at a cost of $15,000, and two edifices are now in process of erection—one a library building, and the other a ladies' hall—at a cost for both of over $30,000.

The endowment fund and other vested funds amount to over $80,000. The attendance in 1885 was about 300. From small beginnings, the college has developed gradually, until it has now become established in a broad work and with large facilities.

been the casting of dice, and infinitely dangerous to public harmony, for the parties to it were heated with jealousy and suspicion, and the prize was the sovereignty of a nation. Which of the parties should surpass the other in peopling the new Territory should determine its institutions, and as determined, so it should take its place as a State in the Union.

Thus dawned the last act in the drama of slavery in America, a drama that had continued from the founding of the Government.

Hitherto a large emigration from the free States of the East had been tending westward and northwestward, followed by a still larger number of immigrants from Europe, but, to no considerable extent, to the south or southwest; while from the old slave States no noticeable emigration had taken place in any direction. For various reasons, this condition of stability in the South could not well be changed, while the people of the North were accustomed to a change of residence, and millions could, and delighted in, moving from place to place over the country, almost with the facility and dispatch of an army. On account of the contiguity of the slave States to the prize to be contended for, they had great advantage over the free States in establishing themselves in Kansas, and in determining the character of its institutions; while, on the other side, the free States had great advantages over the slave States, to the same end, in the fact of their established roaming habits, and the facility of disposing of their estates. The South, remembering the course of emigration, as it had hitherto been, but not fully appreciating the determined spirit of the North upon the question at issue, had anticipated an easy victory, by slow degrees to be achieved, as the planters with their gangs of slaves might encounter the dangers of their escape, and open up new plantations upon the tough sward in the new and untilled Territory.

Simultaneously with the passage of the Kansas act by Congress, the General Assembly of Massachusetts passed an act entitled, "An act to incorporate the Massachusetts Emigrant Aid Society," the purposes of which were set forth to be, "to assist emigrants to settle in the West, and to aid them in providing themselves a home after arriving at their destination." By the long and heated discussions over the subject in the halls of Congress, and these reported and commented upon through the press, the people of the North, in every village and school district, had become familiar with the nature of the tournament to which Congress had invited them, on the fair field "beyond the Mississippi."

President Pierce was of the Democratic party, and the policy of the Democratic party had long been moulded by the South. It was the general expectation at Washington that Kansas would be occupied by people from the slaveholding States, and in due time become a slave State in the Union, while Nebraska would become a free State. Whether there was any tacit understanding between the President and the leading statesmen of the South that he should use his official influence from the free States, became alarmed for the result of the first election, feeling that it would exercise a large influence in determining the character of immigration that might succeed that event. Thereupon they set themselves vigorously to work in making the alarm general, and in urging their fellow citizens, quite regardless of any purpose of remaining in the Territory, to go over on the day of election and vote, in open defiance of the spirit, at least, of the Kansas-Nebraska act. As a specimen of the advise of these men, I submit a copy of a speech made by the Hon. David R. Atchison, at the time President of the Senate, and as such acting Vice President of the United States.

As reported by the *Platte County Argus*, Mr. Atchison, in a speech made on the 6th of November, in that county, said:

> My mission then to-day is, if possible, to awaken the people of this county to the danger ahead, and to suggest the means to avoid it. The people of Kansas in their first election will decide the question whether or not the slaveholder is to be excluded, and it depends upon a majority of the votes cast at the polls. Now, if a set of fanatics and demagogues a thousand miles off can afford to advance their money and exert every nerve to abolitionize the Territory, and exclude the slaveholder, when they have not the least personal interest, what is your duty, when you reside in one day's journey of the Territory, and when your peace, your quiet and your property depend upon your action? You can without an exertion send five hundred of your young men, who will vote in favor of your institutions. Should each county in the State of Missouri only do its duty, the question will be decided quietly and peaceably at the ballot box. If we are defeated, then Missouri and the other Southern States will have shown themselves recreant to their interests, and will deserve their fate.

With rare exceptions, such was the sentiment of the public men and of the press throughout the State of Missouri in the autumn of 1854. But the old adage, "Whom the gods would destroy they first make mad," had never a more perfect illustration than in this case. For every individual in the slaveholding States who read these sentiments as sent abroad by the press of Missouri, a thousand persons in the free States pondered them and acted upon them. The writer was in the rooms of the *Chicago Tribune* on the evening when the *Platte County Argus* was received there, containing a report of Mr. Atchison's speech, and will never forget the state of indignation it produced; for, while rumors had for some time been upon the air that the Missourians were organizing in bands to go over to vote at the Territorial election, they were not generally regarded. But now that a leading Senator of the United States had so degraded his high position, and insulted the nation, as to openly counsel schemes of disloyalty and revolution, the alienation and madness of the slave power was displayed in a more lurid light than ever before, and a spirit of resistance was in turn aroused that had more than a momentary influence on the North.

Though it was too late when Mr. Atchison sounded his note of alarm for emigrants from the Eastern States to reach the Territory in season to vote, there were a considerable number in the States of Illinois and Iowa who made the attempt.

The writer was at St. Louis on the morning of Nov. 24th, and met there some twenty or more erected in 1882. Mr. William Holmes, of Baltimore, in his lifetime had been a generous giver to the institution, and after his death his sister, Miss Jane Holmes, gave $16,000, as a memorial of her brother, towards the expenses of constructing this building, known as "Holmes Hall." Other considerable donations and bequests have, from time to time, been made to the institution—notably a bequest by Miss Sarah Burr, of New York city, in the sum of $10,000, but from delays in the settlement of her estate it has not become available to the college.

The institution sustains a kindergarten school, a primary, a preparatory and a collegiate department. The number of young ladies and misses in attendance for the scholastic year ending in June, 1885, was 344. It has expended in buildings, improvements, fixtures and furnishings essential to its work, the sum of about $175,000. It has no endowment fund, and receives no support but from legitimate sources of its work.

WASHBURN COLLEGE.

AS early as 1858, the Congregational churches of Kansas took steps to organize an institution of learning, which, while not sectarian, should be specially fostered by the growth and enlargement of the denomination under whose auspices it was to be founded. Accordingly an institution was located at Topeka, under the name and style of the Topeka Institute.

Col. John Ritchie generously donated 160 acres southwest of the city, and other sums were pledged.

In 1859, the general association of the Congregational ministers and churches of Kansas changed the location to Lawrence, and one year subsequently the location was again fixed at Topeka. At that time the institution consisted simply of resolutions, and changes could easily be made by a stroke of the pen, or by words spoken at the moment, without the turning of a single stone or the drawing of a nail.

The civil war began in the spring of 1861, and for four years the public thought and energy were intent on the suppression of the rebellion.

In the fall of 1864, the late Rev. Samuel D. Bowker, brother of the late Wm. E. Bowker, so long

THE TOPEKA GOVERNMENT.

THE "Kansas-Nebraska act" was signed and became a law on the 30th of May, 1854. In its consequences, it proved to be one of the most momentous events in directing the destinies of the nation of any in its history. It was the last of a series of compromises between the slaveholding and the free States which began thirty-four years previously, in the "Missouri compromise;" all political compromises, indeed, but in no degree tending to allay the popular excitement upon the question of slavery, for, in its moral aspects, no compromise was possible.

The Kansas-Nebraska act was a repeal of the restriction clause of the Missouri compromise, with reference to the institution of slavery in States that might, after its adoption, be admitted to the Union; and for this reason, especially, was its passage received with surprise and disappointment, not to say indignation, in the free States. Public sentiment had then been long agitated over the inhumanity of slavery and the shame of it to the nation. Under the specious guise of "compromise," they had seen the institution from time to time extended over the public domain, against the moral protests of the world, and from time to time, with increased arrogance on the part of its propagandists, until they mockingly threatened to yet call the roll of their slaves from the most revered shrines of the nation's liberty. The sentiment of a large class in the free States had come to be expressed in the words, "No further compromise with slavery." In the Kansas-Nebraska act they recognized no compromise, but rather a repeal of compromise, for it annulled the only feature of the compact of 1820 which had weight with the North in its adoption, and this, though the South had immediately secured all the advantages contended for in that memorable struggle.

In the slaveholding States, the passage of the act was received with great rejoicings. The feeling there had been that any restraints upon them, in the extension of slavery to new States and Territories, was an injust imposition, and unauthorized by the constitution. The measure was there regarded as a victory won over the free States, which would greatly inure to their material advantage, and secure to the South a perpetual preponderance in the councils and the policy of the nation.

The Congress, wearied with the "irrepressible conflict," had abdicated its prerogative of saying whether slavery might or might not be carried into Kansas, and had adopted the unprecedented and unstatesmanlike course, of relegating that all-important subject to the public, to be determined by chance, as between the two great parties of the North and the South, as absolutely as would have to produce that result, cannot be known, but the subsequent course of the President left a reasonable presumption that such was the fact.

Five months after the approval of the act by the President, he appointed the Territorial officials for Kansas as follows: Andrew H. Reeder, of Pennsylvania, as Governor; Daniel Woodson, of Lynchburg, Va., Secretary; Israel B. Donaldson, of Illinois, Chief Justice; and Rush Elmore, of Alabama, and Saunders W. Johnson, of Ohio, Associate Justices; with Andrew Jackson Isaacs, of Louisiana, for United States Attorney.

Immediately after the passage of the organic act, the opposing forces commenced to lay their plans for the campaign, and take position upon the field. On the 13th of June, there was organized at Weston, Mo., a company to found a town on the Fort Leavenworth military reservation, and, on the 27th of July, another company of Missourians, to found the town of Atchison, in Kansas, and these localities at once became centers for immigration from Missouri, and strongholds of the slave influence in the autumn of 1854.

About the first of August, arrived in the Territory the first party of emigrants from New England, and they founded the town of Lawrence. On the first of the succeeding December, Topeka was founded by Free-State men, and thus, in 1854, two *pro*-slavery towns and two *anti*-slavery towns were established in the new and unpeopled Territory—more as belligerent forts frowning upon each other than as sympathetic countrymen in a strange land.

During the autumn of 1854, individuals and families were moving into Kansas, for permanent settlement as farmers, from the North; while, from the South, there were no permanent settlers properly so called. A few hundred came over from Missouri to settle in the towns of Leavenworth and Atchison, and occasionally a farmer with his covered wagon for a domicile, and provisions for a few weeks, would cross the line and make such marks upon the prairie as, according to the code of squatter sovereignty, would secure to him preëmption rights when the lands might come into market. But there was generally no desire or expectation on the part of the people of western Missouri to change their residence for Kansas, for by doing so they would be leaving a better country than they would go to, a fact which they knew better than any others. Missouri did not want Kansas to be a slave State for her own sons to occupy, but she wanted it a slave State that abolition influences might not be there.

On the 7th of October, Gov. Reeder arrived in the Territory, and, after a hasty reconnoisance through the eastern portion, established election districts, and ordered an election for Delegate in Congress to be held on the 29th of November.

Down to the period of the arrival of Gov. Reeder in the Territory, there had been little or no immigration but with the honest intention of becoming permanent settlers, but immediately after that event, the public men of Missouri, noticing the steady flow of immigration up the Missouri river voters from the free States bound for Kansas, some of them from New England; but the sandbars in the Missouri river seemed in collusion with the boat and its captain to delay our arrival there, and it was past noon of the 29th before we reached the mouth of the Kaw.

We were too late to reach the place of voting, but were not too late to see a portion of Mr. Atchison's "five hundred young men" from Missouri, on their way back to their homes, exultant over their success in beating the "abolitionists" at the polls in Kansas.

The election, according to the returns made by the Pro-Slavery judges of election to Gov. Reeder, showed a total vote in the Territory of 2,833, of which the Pro-Slavery candidate received 2,258. The number of voters in the Territory, according to an official enumeration made two months subsequently to the election, was 2,905. In a number of precincts where a large number of Free-State votes were polled no return was made of them, while in others the Pro-Slavery vote returned was ten to twelve times greater than the whole number of resident voters. In the judgment of the writer, there were not above 1,200 resident voters in the Territory on the 29th of November, 1854. Immediately after the election, all immigration from Missouri and other slave States ceased, while from the free States it continued during the winter. J. W. Whitfield, elected in this manner as Delegate in Congress, repaired to Washington, and was admitted to a seat, in absence of any one to contest him, though remonstrances against the fraudulent proceedings at the election were forwarded to that body and to the President. At the next session his case was considered, and a place in that body denied him.

Soon after the election the Free-State men began to counsel together over the political situation, and to discuss methods of relief.

In Missouri, the people took measures to prevent any further immigration from the free States. The following is a copy of a resolution adopted at a public meeting in Lafayette county, on the 25th of December:

> *Resolved*, That we the shippers, merchants, planters, and citizens generally, of Lafayette county, deem it an act of injustice that steamboats on the Missouri river should give their aid and countenance to the base attempt to abolitionize the Territory of Kansas, by aiding or forwarding any person who may be sent by abolition societies thereto, or in giving aid or assistance to any such object; and that in our shipping, trading and traveling, we will give preference to such boats as will refuse their aid and comfort to such immigration as may be forwarded by any abolition society for such purposes.

On the 8th of March, 1855, Gov. Reeder issued his proclamation calling an election for Councilmen and Representatives to a Territorial Legislature, and appointing judges of election in the several election districts, to be held on the 30th of that month. The place of voting in the third electoral district, in which Topeka was included, was at Stinson's—otherwise Tecumseh. The Governor had appointed the Rev. Henry B. Burgess, of Topeka, as one of the judges, and there was no little curiosity to see how the Pro-Slavery judges would fraternize with this reverend abolitionist in their official duties. Of this and other events of the day of election it is better that official documents speak, and I copy from the report of the special committee appointed by Congress to investigate the Kansas troubles, and whose report was made to the first session of the 34th Congress:

> On the 28th of March, persons from Clay, Jackson and Howard counties, in Missouri, began to come into Tecumseh in wagons, carriages, and on horseback, and with guns, Bowie knives and revolvers, and stopped close by the town, and continued coming until the day of election. The night before the election, 200 men were sent for from the camp of the Missourians at Lawrence. On the morning of the election, before the polls were opened, some 300 or 400 Missourians and others collected in the yard about the house of Thomas Stinson, where the election was to be held, armed with Bowie knives, revolvers and clubs; they said they came to vote, and whip the damned Yankees, and would vote without being sworn. Some said they came to have a fight, and wanted one.
>
> Col. Samuel H. Woodson, of Independence, Missouri, was in the room of the judges when they arrived preparing the poll books and tally lists, and remained there during the attempts to organize. The room of the judges was also filled by many other strangers. The judges could not agree concerning the oath to be taken by themselves, and that to be administered to the voters; Mr. Burgess desiring to administer the oath prescribed by the Governor, and the other two judges opposing it. During the discussion between the judges, which lasted some time, the crowd outside became excited and noisy, threatening and cursing Mr. Burgess, the Free-State judge. Persons were sent at different times by the crowd outside into the room where the judges were with threatening messages, especially against Mr. Burgess, and at last, ten minutes were given them to organize or leave, and as the time passed persons would call out the number of minutes left, with threats against Burgess if he did not agree to organize. At the end of that time, the judges not being

able to organize, he left the room, and the crowd proceeded to elect new judges and carry on the election.

The Free-State men generally left the ground without voting, stating that there was no use in their voting now. The polls were so crowded during the fore part of the day that the citizens could not get up to the polls to vote. Threats were made against the Free-State men. In the afternoon, the Rev. Mr. Gilpatrick was attacked and driven off by the mob. A man, by some called "Texas," made a speech to the crowd, urging them to vote, and to remain on the ground until the polls were closed, for fear the "abolitionists" would come there in the afternoon and overpower them, and thus they would lose all their trouble.

For making an affidavit, in a protest against this election, setting forth the facts, Mr. Burgess was indicted by the grand jury for perjury, which indictment was found more than fifteen months before he became aware of the fact, and he was never brought to trial nor informed who his accuser was.

A large majority—four to one—of the settlers of the district were Free-State men, and there cannot be the least doubt that if none but the actual settlers of the district had voted at that election, the Free-State candidates would have been elected. The number of legal voters in the district, according to the census returns, was 101. The total number of votes cast was 372, and of them but 32 are on the census returns, and from the testimony and records we are satisfied that not over forty legal votes were cast at that election.

The proceedings at Tecumseh, as related by the Congressional committee, are a true sample of what occurred in many of the electoral districts at that election. At Lawrence, then much the largest Free-State town in the Territory, the Missourians were present to vote, to the number of about 1,000. In addition to muskets and side-arms, they had two cannon, which they had taken from a United States arsenal at Liberty, Missouri, loaded, and shotted with musket balls.

The total vote of the Territory at that time, as returned by the judges, was 6,307, of which 5,427 were returned as having been cast for the Pro-Slavery candidates, 791 for the Free-State candidates, and 89 as scattering. The number of voters found in the Territory two months previously, as by official enumeration, was 2,905.

The General Government and the people of the country were fully and authentically advised of these proceedings. Gov. Reeder set aside the election from causes of fraud and informality in cases of ten Representatives and one Councilman, and ordered a new election to be held in those districts on the 22d of May, to fill the vacancies. At that election the Pro-Slavery men did not vote, but when the Free-State men at that time elected presented their credentials to the Legislature and demanded seats, they were refused, and their seats given to the Pro-Slavery men voted for at the March election.

About the middle of April, Gov. Reeder issued his proclamation convening the Legislature at the town of Pawnee, situated immediately contiguous to Fort Riley military reservation on the east. This town was ostensibly an enterprise of a few officers and attachés at the Fort, but it was in some way made a pretext by Gov. Reeder's Pro-Slavery enemies for charging him, in their prayer for his removal, with "speculating in town lots"—whatever offense that may be. Whether any sinister motives operated upon the Governor, inducing him to call the session at that point, is not known, of course; but be that as it may, there were reasons of a prudential nature quite sufficient to justify him in doing so. The site was very distasteful to the Legislature, as the Governor must have known it would be, and by a singular coincidence the War Office at Washington, Jefferson Davis being Secretary in those days, issued its orders extending the Fort Riley reservation eastward so as to include the ill-starred city of Pawnee.

The Legislature duly convened at Pawnee, on the 2d of July, but on the 6th adjourned from that place, and on the 16th reassembled at the Shawnee Manual Labor School, some five or six miles from the Missouri State line. Whether the order of the Secretary of War, extending the Fort Riley reserve, and by that means making Pawnee untenable as a place for the session to be held, had been made upon request, and for the purpose of forming a pretext to the Legislature for adjourning from there, can only be conjectured. It was not necessary to go so far for a pretext. The Legislature held the opinion that the Governor had exceeded his authority in fixing any place where the session should be held, while he regarded it as a prerogative of his office to do so, and on the 21st of July he addressed to them a message, stating that it was plain that the Legislature there in session, so far as *place* was concerned, was in contravention of the act of Congress, and where they had no right to sit, and could make no valid legislation; that, entertaining such views, he could give no sanction to any bill that might be passed; and that, if his views were not satisfactory to the Legislature, it followed that they must act independently of each other.

In response to the Governor's message, they adopted a resolution directed to President Pierce, asking the Governor's removal from office, and the President, willing to do them a favor, immediately removed him. Secretary Woodson succeeded to the duties of the executive office, and the unanimously Pro-Slavery Legislature, unrestrained by any Free-State influences, proceeded with its work, as best they knew, of making Kansas a slave State.

They adopted the statutes of Missouri *en masse* as the statutes of the Territory of Kansas, only by resolution declaring that where occurred the words "State of Missouri" it should be construed to mean "Territory of Kansas," and then proceeded to such changes as in their estimation would render their slave property more secure from the influences of the abolitionists; and such laws had never before appeared upon an American statute book.

Mr. Gladstone, a relative of the great English premier, spent some time in Kansas in the summer of 1856, as correspondent of the London *Times*, and of this Legislature of usurpers spoke as follows:

> Being in haste to give a code of laws to Kansas, they transferred into a volume of more than a thousand pages the greater part of the laws of their own State, substituting the words "Territory of Kansas" for "State of Missouri." In protecting slavery, they enacted far more vigorous laws than obtain in Missouri, or than were ever before conceived of, making it a felony to utter a word against the institution, or

even to have in possession a book or paper which denies the right to hold slaves in Kansas. For every copy of a Free-State newspaper which a person might innocently purchase, the law would justify that person's condemnation to penal servitude for two or five years, dragging a heavy ball and chain at his ankles, and hired out for labor on the public roads, or for the service of private individuals, at a fixed price of fifty cents *per diem*. So comprehensive did these legislators make their slave code, that, by the authority they thus gave themselves, they could in a very short time have made every Free-State man in the Territory a chained convict, standing side by side, if they pleased, with their slaves, and giving years of forced labor for the behoof of their Pro-Slavery fellow citizens.

The Legislature proceeded also to appoint officers for the Territory. Even the executive and judiciary were made to hold office from itself; and a board of commissioners chosen by the Legislature, instead of the inhabitants themselves, was empowered to appoint the sheriffs, justices of the peace, constables and all other officers in the various counties into which the Territory was divided. Every member of succeeding Legislatures, every judge of election, every voter, must swear to his faithfulness to the test question of slavery. Every officer of the Territory, judicial, executive or legislative, every attorney admitted to practice in the courts, every juryman weighing evidence on the rights of slaveholders, must attest his soundness in the interests of slavery, and his readiness to endorse its most repugnant measures.

For further security, the members of the Assembly submitted their enactments to the Chief Justice for confirmation. This judicial confirmation was gratefully given, and all they had done was declared legal; and the sheriffs and other local officers appointed by the Legislature were equally ready with their aid in the execution of these unjust laws.

In addition to Mr. Gladstone's summary of the work of that Legislature, it should be added that provision was made for organizing a Territorial militia, all officers superior to a captain being appointable by the Governor, a provision of which Secretary Woodson availed himself in all haste, three major generals, six brigadier generals, six colonels, one adjutant general and one inspector general being appointed by him and confirmed by the Council on the day of its adjournment, August 30.

This ended the mission of this most notorious Legislature, and the Pro-Slavery party throughout the country rejoiced in its shameless achievement. They considered the prize as substantially won; and by the aid of its militia, liable at least to any degree of reinforcements from Missouri, and backed by the General Government, as they had too good reason to suppose it would be, they awaited the effect of their devices for driving out the Free-State men.

We have thus glanced at some of the political evidence which goes to prove the great crime against Kansas. Two important chains of evidence we leave untouched, and to which only allusion shall be made. Reference is intended to the systematized attempts on the part of the South to inaugurate a reign of terror in Kansas, by methods known to none so well as to men trained in the exercise of brute force over their quailing and suppliant slaves. The details of this element of savagery mark the civil life of Kansas through the first four years of her Territorial period. Thousands of Free-State people were driven out from this cause, and tens of thousands deterred from coming in. But, so too, were many maddened, and frenzied some, as souls which "go marching on" may testify.

And another: The position of the General Government. That a partiality was exercised by it to make Kansas a Slave State, is too apparent to be denied. A thousand affirmative voices could not make the proof more conclusive. That President Pierce had submitted himself to the slave power, until bound by chains he could not break if he would, must be the verdict of his country's history; and this element of evil, of all that clustered in the way, was most oppressive to the Free-State party.

But the South, then as after, failed to estimate correctly the character and the resources of their opponents. The Free-State men, knowing most perfectly the criminal usurpation by which a Territorial government had been foisted upon them, and appreciating their rights as American citizens, with a unanimity scarcely admitting of one exception, resolved to utterly ignore and defy that government, and to rely upon the *magna charta* of the nation's being, and the immutable principles of right of appeal to the patriotism and justice of the country at large for protection.

The Congressional scheme of determining the question of slavery extension, by a game of chance, having resulted in a great crime and a farce, as it might well have been expected to, and the Government having accepted the result as a valid Territorial government, the Free-State men were in a great quandary as to the course for them to pursue. To their everlasting honor be it remembered, they did not for one moment entertain the idea of abandoning the struggle. True, they were absolutely disfranchised, and by no possibility could attain to political supremacy, neither in the Territory nor in any prospective State to be formed upon the Territory. It was possible, indeed, that some future Congress might annul the fraudulent proceedings, and order a new Territorial organization; but the slave power was from year to year becoming more powerful to direct the affairs of the Government, so that there existed scarcely a ray of hope from that source; and in the event, even, of any contingency of that character arising, there had been a loophole provided in the organic act, by which Kansas might be annexed to the State of Missouri, to take her civil institutions and her laws. There seemed to be no course to pursue but the one that was taken. Congress had made provision for framing a Territorial government, and a Territorial government had been framed, said the President, and all who opposed it were rebels and revolutionists, to be treated as such.

But the right remained to form a State government, and that by abundant precedent, without an enabling act by Congress; and more, with their constitution in republican form, they might go up to Washington with their prayers for admission as a sovereign and equal State in the American Union, and there at least abide: one political advantage, surely, and perchance a final admission and a victory over all. That course was determined upon, and carried to the end. As we now look back upon it, we see it to have been the course of wisdom, and the only course that could have made Kansas a free State short of a national revolution.

The first convention of Free-State men in the Territory was held at Lawrence, on the 14th and 15th days of August, 1855, and the following resolution was adopted:

> WHEREAS, The people of Kansas have been, since its settlement, and now are, without any law-making power: therefore, be it
>
> *Resolved*, That we, the people of Kansas Territory, in mass meeting assembled, irrespective of party distinction, influenced by common necessity, and greatly desirous of promoting the common good, do hereby call upon and request all *bona fide* citizens of Kansas Territory, of whatever political views and predilections, to consult together in their respective election districts, and, in mass convention or otherwise, elect three delegates for each Representative to which said election district is entitled in the House of Representatives of the Legislative Assembly, by proclamation of Gov. Reeder, of date 19th of March, 1855; said delegates to assemble in convention at the town of Topeka, on the 19th day of September, 1855, then and there to consider and determine upon all subjects of public interest, and particularly upon that having reference to the speedy formation of a State constitution, with an intention of an immediate application to be admitted as a State into the Union of the United States of America.

At the same time a Free-State executive committee was appointed.

On the 5th of September, a convention for the purpose of organizing the Free-State party was held at Big Springs, which was a more numerous assemblage of Free-State men than any that had previously been held in the Territory. The ablest of the Free-State men were present, without distinction of national politics. The resolutions on that occasion adopted are too long to be introduced here at full length, but I submit the following extracts as showing the chief causes of action:

WHEREAS, We find ourselves in an unparalleled and critical condition—deprived by superior force of the rights guaranteed by the declaration of independence, the constitution of the United States, and the Kansas bill: therefore,

Resolved, That, setting aside all minor issues of partisan politics, it is incumbent upon us to proffer an organization calculated to recover our dearest rights, and into which Democrats and Whigs, native and naturalized citizens, may freely enter without any sacrifice of their respective political creeds, but without forcing them as a test upon others.

Resolved, That we will oppose and resist all non-resident voters at our polls, whether from Missouri or elsewhere, as a gross violation of our rights, and a virtual disfranchisement of our citizens.

Resolved, That the body of men who for the past two months have been making laws for the people of the Territory, moved, consulted and dictated by the demagogues of Missouri, are to us a foreign body, representing only the lawless invaders who elected them, and not the people of the Territory; that we repudiate their action as the monstrous consummation of an act of violence, usurpation and fraud, unparalleled in the history of the Union, and worthy only of men unfitted for the duties, and regardless of the responsibilities, of republicans.

Resolved, That this miscalled Legislature, by their reckless disregard of the organic Territorial act, and other Congressional legislation, in expelling members whose title to seats was beyond their power to annul; in admitting members who were not elected, and in legislating at an unauthorized place; by their refusal to allow the people to select any of their own officers; by leaving us no elections save those prescribed by Congress, and therefore beyond their power to abrogate, and even at those selling the right of suffrage at our ballot boxes to any non-resident who chooses to buy and pay for it; by compelling us to take an oath to support a law of the United States invidiously pointed out; by stifling the freedom of speech and the press, thus usurping the power forbidden to Congress, has libelled the declaration of independence, violated the constitution and bill of rights, and brought contempt and disgrace upon our republican institutions, at home and abroad.

Resolved, That we owe no allegiance or obedience to the tyrannical enactments of this spurious Legislature—that their laws have no validity or binding force upon the people of Kansas, and that every free man among us is at full liberty, consistent with his obligations as a citizen and a man, to resist them if he chooses so to do.

Resolved, That we cannot and will not quietly submit to surrender our great American birthright—the election franchise, which first by violence, and then by chicanery, artifice, and weak and wicked legislation, they have so effectually attempted to deprive us of, and that we with scorn repudiate the election laws, so called, and will not meet with them on the day they have appointed for election, but will ourselves fix upon a day for the purpose of electing a Delegate to Congress.

The 1st day of October had been named by the Legislature for the election of a Delegate to Congress, but agreeably to this last resolution the Free-State men took no notice of it, and fixed upon the 9th day of that month for their election. The Pro-Slavery party, under those circumstances, did not deem it necessary to subject their Missouri cousins to the inconvenience of a journey into the Territory to vote, but quietly elected their candidate, John W. Wakefield, polling for him 2,721 votes.

On the 9th day of the same month, the Free-State party voted for their candidate, ex-Gov. Andrew H. Reeder, polling 2,849 votes.

On the same day, the Free-State men, agreeably to provisions made at the people's convention held at Lawrence on the 14th of August, and as endorsed by the Big Springs convention Sept. 5th, and a plan formulated at a delegate convention held at Topeka on Sept. 19th, elected thirty-one delegates, to meet at Topeka on the 23d of October, then and there to draft a constitution for the State of Kansas. The convention assembled in due time, was in session until the 11th of November, and submitted to the people of Kansas the first of their series of four State constitutions, the cherished historical document known as the "Topeka Constitution." The election was held on the 15th of December, and resulted in the casting of 1,731 affirmative votes and 48 negative—the Pro-Slavery men not voting.

The constitution being thus adopted, the executive committee called a general election for State officers, to be held on the 12th of January, 1856, and on that date were elected, as governor, Charles Robinson, and a full board of State officers.

The effect of these measures were maddening in the extreme to the Pro-Slavery party, for they revealed a possible way in which the coveted prize might slip from their grasp, notwithstanding the chains they had so closely riveted; and then began a process of tyranny, through the instrumentality of the courts, proclamations from Governors, and fulminations from the "White House." The Territorial government had not sufficient force to execute a civil process even against a Free-State man, and hence the forces stationed at the United States military posts were ordered to the service of a *posse comitatus* in the arrests of Free-State men, hundreds of whom were seized on frivolous and fictitious charges of "constructive treason," and the like, and held in duress for months. Every means within their power was resorted to, to break the force of this unforseen movement by the Free-State men.

On the 24th of January, 1856, the President directed to Congress a special message, in which he gave full countenance to the Territorial government that had been established by the Missourians, and denounced the Topeka government as rebellious and revolutionary; and on the 11th of the next month he issued a proclamation commanding "all persons engaged in unlawful combinations against the constituted authority of the Territory of Kansas, or of the United States, to disperse and retire peaceably to their respective abodes," intimating to them, at the same time, that the "army and the *navy*" were subject to his orders in enforcing his proclamations—a flat-boat had made its way up the Kaw river as far as to Topeka the previous summer!

On the 4th of March, the Legislature under the Free-State constitution assembled at Topeka. It prepared a memorial to Congress asking admission to the Union, appointed commissioners to prepare a code of laws, elected Andrew H. Reeder and James H. Lane as United States Senators, and on the 8th adjourned till the 4th of July.

During the spring of 1856, active measures were instituted in organizing a Free-State militia, and arms were contributed to them from friends in the East. The Pro-Slavery government was also active in perfecting the organization of its militia and in calling on the slave States for aid. The Missouri river was closed to immigration from the free States, but considerable bands of emigrants from South Carolina, Georgia, and other slave States, bearing their implements of industry at their shoulders and in their belts, were at frequent intervals of time excursionists up that stream, to enjoy the balmy breezes of Kansas—or otherwise. The signs of the times were unmistakably the signs of war, in the results of which the Free-State men felt that they had nothing to fear, except in the possible contingency of meeting the national troops, which they did not think at all probable; and yet in that contingency, even, they feared little for final results; they felt that the sentiment of the great republic was with them, and that the right would ultimately prevail. The country had been advised through the agency of a thousand busy pens of the great political crime that had been perpetrated, and of the efforts of the South, supported by the administration at Washington, to fasten by fraud and force the institution of slavery upon Kansas.

The time for the meeting of the Topeka Legislature was near at hand. The National Republican convention, in session at Philadelphia, on the anniversary of the battle of Bunker Hill, had "*Resolved*, That Kansas should be immediately admitted as a State of the Union, with her present Free constitution." The Topeka constitution and the memorial were pending in Congress, and earnest and eloquent friends were pressing for affirmative and immediate action, and at the same time encouraging the men in Kansas to be of good cheer, and stand firmly to their position. The special committee of Congress to investigate the trouble in Kansas submitted its report, conclusive to convince every honest doubter of the true situation.

On the other hand, the Pro-Slavery courts were issuing writs for the arrest, upon any imaginary charge, of leading men in the Free-State party, for the purpose of intimidation, and to prevent the meeting of the Legislature. United States soldiers, by orders from the War Office in Washington, were commanded to assist in enforcing these arrests. Gov. Shannon was often writing to the President of the political and military situation, and to United States military commanders to be vigilant to prevent the meeting of the Free-State Legislature. And yet he would not go far enough in acts of tyranny to satisfy the slavery propagandists and the President, and was removed from office, that Secretary Woodson, from Lynchburg, Va., might take in hand the executive reins. Woodson issued his proclamation, to make effectual that of the President, presumably, commanding the members of the Legislature to abstain from their purpose, and wrote to Col. Cook, commanding at Fort Riley, to "Take the field, and scour the country between Fort Riley and the crossing opposite to

Topeka, for the purpose of repelling any armed invasion of the Territory." A hundred Free-State men were imprisoned in tents and guarded by the United States troops.

Suddenly the scene changed, and the policy of the President appeared in a modified light. Col. Sumner was sent to the border to turn back the militia of Missouri, for the third time advancing to conquer Kansas, and it became apparent that United States troops, and them only, would appear at Topeka on the 4th of July. This was a great relief to the feelings of the Free-State men. They could yield obedience to the army of the nation, and accept a military government if it so ordained, but not from slavery propagandists.

As the sun went down on that third evening of July, 1856, so far as the popular branch of the Congress could make it, Kansas was a sovereign State in the Union; and yet two squadrons of United States troops were encamped around Topeka, to prevent her lawful Legislature from assembling to transact legitimate business, on the anniversary of the nation's independence.

Such, in brief, were the causes which led up to the formation of the Topeka government, and such the situation on the evening of the 3d of July.

DISPERSION OF THE LEGISLATURE.

AT the time of the dispersion of the Free-State Legislature assembled at Topeka by United States troops, Col. Wm. A. Phillips, subsequently a Member of Congress from the State of Kansas, was a correspondent of the *New York Tribune*, and personally cognizant of the affair, and though in error in some unimportant details, his account thereof is much the best that has been written, and it is better that his narration should go down in history as it is than that any one should attempt a a correction. I give it entire, as follows:

The morning of the 4th of July broke in cloudy, dappled sky on Topeka, but soon the fresh breeze, which had swept without a bound or limit from the base of the Rocky mountains, dispersed the canopy of clouds, and left the glowing sun to blaze down through a sky of unbroken blue. The stillness of the morning was broken by the thundering salute from the artillery of the dragoons: a tribute to the memory of a glorious struggle for liberty, half forgotten, and at the same time a threat to those who were now struggling in another cause of liberty, in which those rights, purchased by the blood that "flowed in 1776," were to be asserted and rescued from encroaching despotism. It was a strange blending of the memory of the dead liberty and the living tyranny: an exhibition which ought to startle the American people from their lethargy, and make them search, ere it be too late, for the last landmarks of our glorious constitution.

It was about ten o'clock in the forenoon when U. S. Marshal Donaldson, accompanied by ex-Judge Elmore, arrived in Topeka. It had been ascertained earlier in the morning that a conclave of Pro-Slavery propagandists and Pro-Slavery officers had assembled at Col. Sumner's camp, and were plotting mischief against Free-State settlers. Woodson, acting Governor, was with others in Col. Sumner's camp.

It was with this exercise of collective wisdom, that Donaldson entered Topeka. The popular convention was in session when the marshal intimated that he had something to communicate. He was invited to the stand, and having got upon it, he announced in a weak and faltering voice that he had sundry proclamations to read to them; that as he was no speaker, Judge Elmore would read them. Upon this, Judge Elmore got upon the stand. He was rather flustered at first, but proceeded more calmly. He read President Pierce's proclamation of February, in which his excellency declared that the usurping Territorial laws, of Shawnee Mission manufacture, would be sustained by the whole force of the Government. Then he read the latest of Gov. Shannon's proclamations. This had been issued a month before—had relation to the dispersion of armed bands, and had nothing to do with the Legislature. The important part of their proclamations was that of Secretary Woodson, the others being merely a preparatory exercise justifying an expletive.

Having got through with this ceremony, all of which was listened to attentively and quietly, the two gentlemen prepared to leave, and the convention resumed its business where it left off. Marshal Donaldson, who had evidently expected some remarkable indication of public sentiment, or a moral earthquake, to follow any announcement, was evidently chagrined at the indifference with which they were received. He halted in the crowd, and asked if they had any communication to send to Col. Sumner. The president of the convention, Mr. Currier, asked if any reply from the convention was desired. Donaldson, on consultation with Judge Elmore, replied, "No;" but added, that if they had anything to send they would carry it. He was then informed that the convention was not the Legislature to which the proclamation was addressed, and that the convention had no reply to make.

It was nearly noon; the convention was still busy at work. The hour of meeting of the Legislature approached, and several of the members of the Legislature had entered the hall. The two military companies of Topeka, which had been on drill, were drawn up in front of the legislative hall to receive a banner from the ladies. A band of music was stationed at the end of the line, and was making the place echo with martial strains. It was a hot summer day, the mercury standing at 100° in the shade, and yet the streets were crowded. It was known that the troops might be expected at any moment, and yet not only men, but women and children in gala dress, were near the legislative hall, and in the street in front of where the convention was held. It was at that moment that a young man hurried into town and announced to the convention and to the people in the streets that Col. Sumner, with his force of dragoons, was rapidly approaching Topeka in battle array. The announcement caused no visible change in the aspect of things; perhaps there might be a fluttering of some anxious hearts, and a tremulous anxiety at the possibility that the brilliant panorama then presented in Topeka might be in a few moments blotted out in blood. Who could tell what an administration capable of such political villainy could contemplate?

Such was the aspect of affairs when the head of the advancing column of dragoons was rapidly turning into Kansas avenue, about a hundred yards above the legislative hall; the popular convention being in the same thoroughfare, which was crowded between the hall and the place where the convention was held. Col. Sumner and his staff came first, at his right the military band, and close behind nearly two hundred dragoons, in three squadrons. The military battle flag fluttered in the breeze. The dragoons entered the town rapidly, dashing up to the legislative hall where the two Topeka companies were drawn up. As they approached, those opposite stood firm. The band played on; a little boy was beating the kettle-drum and neither he nor his older compeers stopped until the dragoons rode up to them, the horses noses coming up to the drum sticks, when Sumner, who was evidently much agitated, leaned towards them raising his gloved hand, and begged them to desist for the present. His shrill voice was then heard crying, "First squadron, form into line!" And the troops under that and other orders formed in battle array around the hall and along the street fronting it; the crowds in the street and those in the convention saw a couple* of cannon posted up the street, on a rise about a hundred yards off, where they had just been planted, with the muzzles pointed down the street, the gunners at their stations, and the slow matches burning. An army surgeon also came with them, his case of instruments open and ready for use. Three other companies at the same time approached the town from the other side, and were only concealed while the force that entered came up by the strip of timber along the valley of the Kansas.

It was a brilliant and startling spectacle which was thus presented—the dragoons with their flashing sabres, the officers giving orders and the men wheeling into position, and above all, the star spangled banner floating from Constitution Hall, as if in mockery of the scene beneath.

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* This battery was placed across Kansas avenue, at the intersection of Fifth street, and consisted of three pieces, according to the recollection of the author and others at the time present.

After the dragoons were placed so as to suit Col. Sumner's taste, he dismounted and walked towards the assembly rooms. Both Senate and House stood adjourned to meet at twelve o'clock, a fact of which Col. Sumner appeared to be aware. He was at once informed that the companies drawn up in front of the hall were there merely to receive a banner from the ladies. He said he did not wish to interfere with their assembling on the 4th of July. Three cheers were given for Col. Sumner. Mr. Redpath shouted, "Three cheers for Gov. Robinson!" which were given with a will, and some one else cried, "Three cheers for liberty!" which was also heartily cheered. Col. Sumner entered the hall of the Legislature, and the crowd rushed in behind him and soon filled the room. The Speaker was absent, and Mr. F. S. Tappan first rose and called order by striking with the gavel on the desk. It was scarcely twelve o'clock, and the Legislature had not yet convened. He went up to the platform, and they offered him a chair, which he pulled to one side, saying, "Do you want to make me Speaker?" (Great laughter and shouts, from the crowd.) Mr. Tappan in a strong, censorious voice proceeded to call the roll; and as there was not a quorum present, he called the sergeant-at-arms to bring in the absentees. Mr. Pratt, recording clerk, then called the roll again, and marked absentees. Only seventeen answered the call, although there were some thirty-three, more than a quorum, in or about the house.

Considerable anxiety was manifested to have all members answer to their names, but some were tremulous and timid; perhaps their response would be the signal for violent arrest and imprisonment. Those who answered did so boldly, and the little band clustered round the stand and stood prepared for what might come.

Col. Sumner rose from his seat and said: "Gentlemen, I am called upon this day to do the most painful duty of my life. Under the authority of the President's proclamation, I am here to disperse the Legislature, and therefore inform you that you cannot meet. I therefore order you to disperse. God knows that I have no party feeling in this matter, and will hold none so long as I occupy my present position. I have just returned from the border, where I have been sending home companies of Missourians, and now I am ordered here to disperse you. Such are my orders, and you must disperse. I now command you to disperse. I repeat that this is the most painful duty of my life."[*]

Judge Schuyler asked: "Col. Sumner are we to understand that we are driven out at the point of the bayonet?"

Col. Sumner: "I shall use the forces in my command to carry out my orders."

The Representatives had dispersed, and Col. Sumner, who did not appear to be particularly informed on legislative matters, had got on his horse to go, when he learned that the Senate was still to be dispersed, and that the Senate chamber was up stairs. He forthwith dismounted again, and proceeded to Constitution Hall. He entered the Senate chamber. There was a quorum present; the hour for convening had arrived, but the President of the Senate had not convened it, when Sumner entered. Orders had been issued the evening before to the doorkeeper to admit no visitors. The doorkeeper allowed Col. Sumner to enter, but told Marshal Donaldson he would not let him in. Donaldson said he was a United States Marshal, and had official business. The doorkeeper, Mr. Fuller, told him to show his papers; he exhibited his commission, and the doorkeeper let him pass. Col. Sumner did not pause to inquire whether the Senate was in session, but proceeded to state that, by virtue of orders of the President, he was there to disperse them, and that they must disperse.

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[*] As soon as a report of Col. Sumner's address before the Legislature reached the Secretary of War—Jefferson Davis—he was superseded in his command.

Having said so, Col. Sumner looked at them to see how they took his announcement. The members of the Senate were standing in a circle, looking at him respectfully, but did not move. There was a long and disagreeable pause, which Sumner broke by asking, "Well, gentlemen, do you consider yourselves dispersed?"

Mr. Thornton, President of the Senate, replied thus: "Col. Sumner, the Senate is not in session and cannot make any reply to you, neither can any member of it."

Mr. Thornton then asked if Col. Sumner, after his order to disperse, would permit them to convene so as to receive any communication he might have to make. The colonel said, "No; my orders are that you must not be permitted to meet, and I cannot allow you to do any business." There was an embarrassing pause. The Senators were drawn up in a circle, looking respectfully at Col. Sumner, but never uttering a word, when Marshal Donaldson, who had been standing unnoticed in the corner, began to suspect that "law and order" were likely to suffer, and stepped forward. He confronted the members of the Senate, and holding his hat in one hand, raising the other, gesticulating with the point of his finger, said, in a tremulous, squeaking voice: "Well, I want all o' you members to promise that you won't meet here again. If you don't,"—and here the U. S. Marshal shook his head menacingly—"I'll arrest every one o' ye—every member."

The Senate paid no attention to this outrageous proceeding, in which a United States officer threatened with a conditional arrest, in the hope of exacting pledges, the yielding to which might be fatal to the cause of freedom in the Territory.

One of the members of the Senate exhibited a *little* of the feeling that such trying circumstances might awaken, and said: "When my country calls me to disperse by her troops, I yield to that authority."

Here Hon. J. W. Pillsbury said: "Col. Sumner, we are in no condition to resist the United States troops; and if you order us to disperse, of course we must disperse." Col. Allen said that he would suggest to his brother Senators that Mr. Pillsbury's sentiments be considered the expression of the whole, which was assented to.

Col. Sumner left the hall. When he got out on the street, he assured many of those who gathered around him, that he did not wish to interfere with the convention assembled there; he had been sent merely to disperse the Legislature, and recognized their right to meet on the 4th of July. Three cheers were again proposed for Col. Sumner, and given. Three cheers for John C. Fremont were then given.

At this point, the dragoons were filed off in marching order. Three cheers were given for the Topeka constitution and the State Legislature. Some of the Pro-Slavery officers looked around rather fiercely when this was done; but Sumner's sharp voice was heard giving the order, "Forward, march!" and just as the military band, who, under the American flag which waved from the hall of the Legislature, had committed one of the most grievous outrages recorded in history, spurred their horses to leave the streets of Topeka, three groans were given for President Pierce, and so deep and loud were they that the sound startled the dragoons, and made their horses break from line as they defiled past.

VICTORY FOR FREEDOM.

IT had been expected by the Pro-Slavery party in Kansas, and probably by the General Government, that the dispersal of the Legislature by the military power of the United States would have a tendency, at least, to restore quiet in Kansas, but quite the contrary result followed, and to a considerable extent was provoked by it. The strife in Kansas was a legitimate act in the tragedy of the "irrepressible conflict," and depended for its vitality upon influences that could not be stifled by military behests or governmental policy. The Pro-Slavery party were encouraged and emboldened in their crimes upon the Free-State men, but they in turn were in no wise intimidated, but rather maddened by the course that the General Government had pursued—a course which they knew, and the country and the world knew, to be wrong and subversive of the rights guaranteed by the national constitution.

During the interim between the departure of Gov. Shannon and the arrival of Gov. Geary, Secretary Woodson exercised executive functions with his usual Pro-Slavery bias. He issued a proclamation declaring the Territory in a state of insurrection and rebellion, called out the Territorial militia, under command of David R. Atchison, of Missouri, ordered Col. Cook, in command of United States troops at Fort Leavenworth, to attack Topeka, and generally attempted to strike terror to the Free-State men before the arrival of Gov. Geary.

On September 9th, 1856, Gov. Geary arrived at Fort Leavenworth, and soon after put a stop to the extreme measures of Woodson. Had he pursued the course of Woodson and the Pro-Slavery party in Kansas, it is not improbable that the date of the civil war in the United States would have been five years earlier than it was. The new Governor, however, like his predecessors upon their arrival, not realizing the magnitude of the crisis, bethought him to restore quietude by employing the civil process of the courts.

On the 18th he arrived at Topeka, accompanied by Col. Cook and the United States Marshal with a *posse*, and writs from Judge Lecompte for the arrest of men charged with various crimes. The charges were laid without regard for either specific crimes or the innocence or guilt of the parties, the chief purpose being to get the men in the possession of Judge Lecompte's court, where specific offenses could be laid, as might be found convenient.

The men were confined in prison in company with many others who had been arrested by similar means in other localities, the prison being guarded by United States troops.

J. H. Kagi, in a letter from prison to the *Kansas Tribune*, published at Topeka, stated that ninety-nine Free-State men were in the prison. John Ritchie and several others of the Topeka men escaped, whereupon several others were transferred to the jail at Tecumseh for better security, but they too soon found means of escape. It was a very incautious procedure to bring them so near Topeka, and place no barrier between them and freedom but a twelve-inch wall of soft bricks. None of the Topeka men were brought to trial, a circumstance quite to their advantage, no doubt.

Kagi and Whipple afterwards accompanied John Brown to Harper's Ferry, and were put to death there.

During the summer of 1856, a company of Free-State militia, under command of Capt. Whipple, at Topeka, was kept quite actively in service for the cause of free Kansas. It participated in the fight at Hickory Point, on the 13th of September, and at other places.

Though the Free-State Legislature had been so summarily dispersed by the military authority of the General Government, in July, 1856, it was in session again on the 6th of January, 1857, but on the close of the session of the second day the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House, together with some eight or ten members, were arrested by the United States Marshal, upon a writ issued by Judge Cato, and taken to Tecumseh, then shire town of Shawnee county. They were bound for appearance for trial at the June term of the United States District Court. But before the day of trial the Pro-Slavery party, under counsels of

Democratic politicians, as well out of as in the Territory, had concluded that they were carrying affairs quite too far; so instead of calling the men to trial for the crime of treason, as had been threatened, their cases were passed for a more prudent occasion, or dismissed with a *nolle.*

This Free-State Legislature was a flexible body of lawgivers, accommodating itself to the dictates of policy or necessity with a facility commendable to all revolutionary enterprises. It was in session again from the 9th to the 13th of June, 1857. Gov. Robert J. Walker was present in Topeka during the time of the session, having a few weeks before arrived in the Territory, but he manifested no disposition to molest the Legislature. The Governor was doing all he could, by traveling about the Territory, mingling with the Free-State people and making public addresses, to create a more harmonious feeling. Like all his predecessors upon coming to Kansas, he was blinded to the real difficulties to harmony—harmony was not possible to the contending sentiments; one or the other must abandon the field.

The Governor addressed the citizens of Topeka from the head of a flight of stairs that went up on the east side of M. K. Smith's store, No. 102 Sixth avenue east, his audience standing about upon the prairie. His manner and sentiments were conciliatory. He urged the men to take part freely in the election to be held in the succeeding October, assuring them that exact and equal justice should be accorded to them, and protection at the polls by military force, if necessary. A few Pro-Slavery men had come up from Tecumseh to hear the new Governor, and made some demonstrations of disrespect, but no notice was taken of them, and no serious disturbance occurred. In the evening Gov. Walker and his party were given an entertainment at the Garvey House, when, by affability of manner and freedom of intercourse, he favorably impressed the people, and secured an influence with them that no other Territorial Governor had enjoyed. And on the same evening, Mr. Enoch Chase and his estimable lady invited all the citizens of Topeka to their house for a social, to which Gov. Walker and suite were invited, and the evening was spent happily by everybody present, and ever afterward Gov. Walker and Secretary Stanton were welcome guests at Topeka.

Hon. Henry Wilson had been in Topeka a few days before the arrival of Gov. Walker, and he had advised the people to take part in the October election; in fact, a systematic effort was made by the Free-State friends throughout the country to have the Free-State men in Kansas take part in that election. Such being their desire, and it seeming the only way out of the muddle into which the Government at Washington, as well as in the Territory, had drifted, it was determined, after numerous conventions, to do so.

There was no doubt on the part of the Free-State men of Shawnee county but that they could carry the election by a large majority, if they could get to the polls, and if illegal votes were kept out; but yet the census returns, as reported by the sheriff in March, taken for the purpose of enabling an apportionment of delegates to the Lecompton constitutional convention, had shown Shawnee county to have but 283 legal votes.

The determination having been reached by the Free-State party throughout the Territory to take part in the election, a convention was called for Shawnee county, to meet at Brownville, now Auburn, for the purpose of nominating persons to be supported for legislative and county offices. The convention was not attended by the Pro-Slavery men at Tecumseh and other localities, but there was quite a full attendance by the county generally. The southern boundary of the county at that time embraced Burlingame, from whence P. C. Schuyler, with others, came to the convention. He was chosen chairman, and F. W. Giles secretary. There was great harmony of feeling and no aspirants for office. It was the first time the Free-State men of Shawnee county had met in political convention. The only misgiving they had was on account of their apparent acknowledgement of the "bogus" laws. This was a hard thing for them to bring their minds to, but feeling great confidence in the result of the election, and remembering the wishes of their friends, they prepared to do their best for the right by way of the wrong.

The convention nominated Cyrus K. Holliday for the Council, James A. Delong for Representative, Philip C. Schuyler for probate judge, then having civil jurisdiction, Jehiel Tyler for sheriff, Frye W.

Giles for county clerk, *ex officio* recorder of deeds, Hiram Shields and Harvey W. Curtis for commissioners, the probate judge being then *ex officio* chairman of the board; Joseph C. Miller, S. N. Frasier and P. T. Hupp, justices of the peace; Daniel H. Horne, constable, and Joel Huntoon, surveyor.

At the election which took place on the 5th of October, there were polls opened at Burlingame, Brownville, Tecumseh, Wakarusa and Topeka. There had been a Pro-Slavery convention at Tecumseh, and nominations made, but the Free-State nominees were all elected, and with scarcely a scattering vote, as follows: The Free-State candidates receiving 649 votes and the Democratic candidates 61; total votes in Shawnee county, 810. The Missourians were at home.

The Free-State party in the Territory elected at that time a large majority of members of the Legislature, and thus finding itself in undisputed possession of the Territorial government, and at the same time having a State organization under the Topeka constitution, it was somewhat divided in sentiment as to what course to pursue. An effort was made to have the Territorial Legislature resolve itself into a State Legislature, under the Topeka constitution, and proceed as a State fully organized, but this proposition received little favor and was soon abandoned. It was then deemed advisable to frame a new State constitution. A resolution to that effect was adopted by the Legislature on the 8th of February, and on the same day a bill removing the Territorial capital from Lecompton to Minneola was also passed. On the 13th of February, the first Free-State Territorial Legislature adjourned, having repealed many of the most obnoxious "bogus laws," but leaving the code of civil practice and the great body of the statutes unchanged, from want of time to substitute others with proper care. The people were disappointed that any act of their Pro-Slavery opponents was left standing. At Topeka, Joseph C. Miller and S. N. Frazier, elected as justices of the peace, resigned their offices, declaring that they consented to take the position with the direct understanding that every "bogus" statute would be repealed. To enforce the least of these would be a stigma upon their past course and a disgrace to the Free-State party; it were better, they said, to live as in the past, without the semblance of legal authority, than to recognize the great fraud by which those statutes were imposed upon Kansas.

The act of the Legislature in removing the Territorial capital to the unheard-of Minneola, in Franklin county, instead of to Topeka, or some other previously existing Free-State town, was severely and justly censured.

On the 21st of January, 1858, the Legislature, sitting at Lawrence, passed an act providing for holding a convention to frame another State constitution. The election of delegates to that convention occurred on the 9th of March, and there were elected as delegates from Shawnee county: A. S. Winans, Lucian Fish, R. M. Fish, H. W. Curtis, W. W. Ross and John Ritchie.

The convention assembled at Minneola, on the 23d of March, but finding great dissatisfaction among the delegates that the Legislature should have moved the Territorial capital to that place, the question of adjournment to some other locality immediately came up. Upon the vote, a clear majority was in favor of Topeka, but on the succeeding day, for the purpose of appeasing some disaffected member, a reconsideration was moved and carried, that the convention adjourn to reassemble at Leavenworth. The convention reassembled at Leavenworth, on the evening of the 25th, and continued its labors until the 3d of April, when its work was completed and the convention adjourned.

In this convention, the subject of the location of the State capital was fully considered, and a plan adopted for the State to receive proposals from localities that might compete for the location—the Legislature to determine the location from among the several competing points, the capital to be at Topeka till such location should be made.

This was the third constitution that had been framed for the State of Kansas within the period of four years from the passage by Congress of the organic act—two by the Free-State party, and one by the Pro-Slavery party; and it is of interest to observe the revolution that had apparently taken place in the sentiments of the citizens upon the question of making Kansas a slave State within that period.

The Pro-Slavery party had framed their constitution under the enabling act of Congress termed the "English bill," in the fall of 1857, and submitted it to popular vote on the 2d of August, 1858. They had ordered a census of voters to be taken preparatory to that vote, and had found but 283 voters in Shawnee, Richardson (now Osage), and Davis (now Wabaunsee) counties, constituting the second election district. The vote polled in that district, upon the question of adopting that constitution, was 41 affirmative and 748 negative. The vote in Tecumseh was 29 affirmative and 187 negative; in Topeka, 10 affirmative and 246 negative.

The vote in Tecumseh and in Topeka, on that occasion, indicated but a slight preponderance of population in Topeka over that in Tecumseh, and it also showed a great change in the political sentiment of Tecumseh, as compared with what the vote of two years previous had indicated.

MARCH OF EVENTS, 1861 to 1886.

THE trade of the town was considerably augmented in the year 1862 by the establishment of the grocery house of Smith & Farnham. Mr. Smith had long been a popular merchant in Topeka, and Mr. Farnham was generally known as a man of superior financial ability. The new firm occupied the premises previously occupied by Mr. Smith, and built by him in 1857, on lot No. 102 Sixth avenue east.

J. M. Hamilton & Co., consisting of Mr. Hamilton, Fielding Johnson and Geo. W. Veale, continued with increased stock the business in dry goods, etc., and were a valuable element in asserting the commercial importance of the town.

In the way of improvements, in 1863, the Methodist Episcopal church, on Quincy street, between Fifth street and Sixth avenue, was opened for public worship in January. The walls of the Episcopal church, at the southwest corner of Jackson and Seventh streets, were erected. John Ritchie, Dr. E. Tefft, and others, erected dwellings of superior quality. The Roman Catholic church, between Seventh street and Eighth avenue, on Jackson street, was dedicated to worship on the 16th of

August. Three or four pretty good stone and brick business houses were erected, and the number of small dwellings built was probably quite equal to the number of such erections in any previous year. The improvements of the year were thought to be equal to those of any other town in the State.

In May, 1864, the United States Internal Revenue Department issued to F. W. Giles a license for the business of banking, and at the close of that month he commenced that business in a small way at No. 183 Kansas avenue.

In the spring of 1866, Mr. C. W. Jewell associated himself with Mr. Giles, and erected the building at No. 185 Kansas avenue for their use. In that year the Kansas Valley National Bank was established, at No. 188 Kansas avenue, under the presidency of Maj. Dan M. Adams. The increase of business in the town and country about was sufficient to give a satisfactory business to both of these institutions. Topeka had become the center of trade in the lumber business for a large district to the south and to the west, and this in time was a great help to the trade of the town generally.

The diminished cost of lumber, incident to the construction of the Union Pacific Railroad, greatly facilitated the construction of dwellings, and a much larger number were erected in 1866 than in any previous year. The clear, bright paint upon these houses presented a pleasing contrast with the coarse walls and somber hues of the materials previously so generally in use.

In 1868, better dwelling houses were erected than previously; notably one by Jesse H. Crane, on the east side of Madison street, between Fourth and Fifth streets; one by Hugo Kullak, on the northwest corner of Topeka avenue and Seventh street, and by Jacob Smith, on the southwest corner of Harrison and Fifth streets. Better business houses than any before were built by Messrs. Baker, Shorb and Tinkham, on lots Nos. 197, 199, and 201 Kansas avenue, and finished in the spring of 1869. A very fine building was constructed by Mr. Mortimer Cook, on the southwest corner of Kausas and Sixth avenues, for some years occupied by the Kansas Valley National Bank. The first iron foundry in Topeka was established that year, at the southwest corner of Second and Jefferson streets, Dr. F. L. Crane giving spacious grounds for that purpose. It commenced business on the 23d of June. Mr. Charles F. Kendall first occupied his building at No. 157 Kansas avenue, then the best mercantile house in the city, and a more extensive establishment in the dry goods business than any other.

The Gale block, at 194 and 196 Kansas avenue, was enlarged and greatly improved; a large brick flouring mill, at the northwest corner of Kansas avenue and Third street was built; and another was in course of construction by L. Laurent, in North Topeka. E. W. Baker & Co. erected a large brick building on the corner of Kansas avenue and Railroad street, in which for a number of years they conducted a large and successful wholesale grocery business. Geo. C. Corning established the Topeka Bank, at the southwest corner of Kansas avenue and Fifth street, opened for business on the 30th of July, Mr. J. R. Swallow, for many years a prominent business man in Topeka, being cashier. It was estimated that fully 400 buildings were constructed in Topeka in 1868.

But gratifying and encouraging as were the events of 1868, those of 1869 greatly surpassed them in importance to the commercial interests of the town. Still better business houses and dwelling houses were constructed, still larger stocks of merchandise in every line were carried by the merchants, and still greater the demand for materials and for workmen in the great manufacturing business of building houses. The number of dwelling houses constructed in that year was computed at 500. Kansas avenue, from Third street to Eighth avenue, was graded, curb stones placed, and the gutters paved. The Santa Fé Railroad was constructed from Topeka to Burlingame. The beautiful iron bridge, 925 feet in length, spanned the Kansas river, and the gas works were founded. These were events of greatest significance, and it was an excusable pride that beamed upon the countenances of the founders of the happy and flourishing little city, as on the fifteenth anniversary of its founding they took a ride through its thronged streets. Relatively considered, we have regarded 1869 as the period of Topeka's greatest improvement.

In February, 1870, a new flouring mill commenced operation in North Topeka. By the first of May, it was evident that the rapid growth of the city in the previous two years was to be repeated in 1870. New buildings were appearing in rapid succession on every street. More marked improvement was made in North Topeka than at any time before. In the fall of that year, the basement story of the Adams building, at the southeast corner of Kansas avenue and Railroad street—now B street—was completed, and arrangements made for building the Palace Hotel and Union Pacific depot.

The Capital Bank, John D. Knox & Co. proprietors, commenced business at No. 202 Kansas avenue about the 9th of September. A large number of dwelling houses were built in the east part of the city, principally for the accommodation of the Santa Fé Railroad employés. The building at the southwest corner of Fifth and Quincy streets was erected by Isaac Morris for purposes of an agricultural implement warehouse in 1870, but in 1871 was finished into a hotel, and has been since known as the Fifth Avenue Hotel. The Tefft House, a hotel at the northwest corner of Kansas avenue and Seventh street, was considerably enlarged and improved in 1871. A State fair was held at Topeka, commencing the 9th of September in that year, which was largely attended, and yielded very satisfactory results to the agricultural society and to the city. Topeka received many complimentary notices from newspaper men and others from distant localities in the State, who had not before appreciated the growth and importance of their capital city.

A very sad incident in connection with that fair should be mentioned. On the 12th of September, that being the last day of the fair, Mr. Sherman Bodwell, a highly respected citizen, at the time sheriff of the county, at a late hour in the afternoon was walking near the northeast corner of Kansas and Sixth avenues, when an inebriated stranger came riding a powerful horse at great speed down Kansas avenue. He reined his horse against Mr. Bodwell, and threw him to the ground with such force that he died a few hours afterwards. The drunken murderer did not check his speed, but rode on and crossed the river to a place in the woods where he had companions. It was night before measures to arrest the man could be taken, and he made his escape.

The building on the northeast corner of Kansas and Sixth avenues was erected in 1873 by Col. C. W. Jewell, for use of the Topeka National Bank, and first occupied about the 1st of February, 1874. It was the first use of the Missouri sandstone in Topeka. The Topeka sandstone, of similar quality, was not known to exist till about 1883, and was first used to any considerable extent by Maj. J. K. Hudson, in the front of his publishing house, on Eighth avenue, in 1885. Had this stone been known in the early years of the life of Topeka, it would have been of immense value to the town.

But the mass of details in the growth of Topeka which lies before us is far too great to be further incorporated in this work. Interesting to the writer though they be, in the extreme, the reader would tire of them, and summaries and aggregations must suffice.

The valuation of property in the city of Topeka for purposes of taxation, which is from one-third to one-half of the marketable value of real estate, and not above fifteen per cent of the actual value of personal property, was:

For 1875	$2,467,000
For 1880	3,002,000
For 1885	5,930,000

The population in those respective periods was:

In 1875	7,272
In 1880	15,528
In 1885 (including suburbs) about	30,000

LOCATION OF THE STATE CAPITAL.

THE fourth movement of the Territory of Kansas to provide for itself a State constitution, preparatory to admission as a State in the Union, was submitted to popular vote on the 28th of March, 1859. The total vote polled upon the proposition was 6,731, of which 5,306 were affirmative and 1,425 negative. Under this election, it was decided that a constitutional convention should be held at Wyandotte.

The election of delegates to that convention was held on the 4th of June, 1859. From Shawnee county were elected, John P. Greer, John Ritchie and H. D. Preston. The convention assembled on the 5th of July, at Wyandotte, and continued its session till the 30th. A provision in regard to the location of State capital was adopted, in the followin form:

> The temporary seat of government is hereby located at the city of Topeka, county of Shawnee. The first Legislature under this constitution shall provide by law for submitting the question of the permanent location of the capital to a popular vote, and a majority of votes cast at some general election shall be necessary for such location.

The vote in the convention on fixing the place of temporary location stood, for Topeka 26, for Lawrence 14, and for Atchison 6. The constitution was adopted on the 4th of October, by a vote of 10,424 to 5,534. On the 21st of January, 1861, the Senate of the United States passed the bill admitting Kansas to the Union under the Wyandotte constitution, by a vote of 36 to 16; on the 28th day of the same month, the House of Representatives also passed the bill, by a vote of 117 to 42; and on the 29th of January, President Buchanan signed the bill, and the prize that Congress had invited slavery and freedom to contend for upon the plains of Kansas was awarded to freedom.

Before that trying hour for the slave States, they had seen the inevitable result; seven of them had formally renounced their allegiance to the Union, and their Senators and Representatives had retired from Congress; so that Kansas has not yet had the honor of their votes upon the proposition of her admission as a State.

M. J. Parrott, Delegate from Kansas, dispatched the joyful tidings to Leavenworth—there being no telegraphic communication with Lawrence, where the Legislature was in session. On the following day the news was received by the Legislature, and final adjournment was taken on the 2d of February.

On the 9th of February, Gov. Charles Robinson took the oath of office. He immediately issued his proclamation for the State Legislature to convene at Topeka on the 26th of March.

The Legislature convened agreeably to Gov.

Robinson's proclamation. Members from Shawnee county were—in the Senate, H. W. Farnsworth and Edward Lynde; and in the House, W. E. Bowker, H. W. Curtis and J. C. Bartlett.

On the 4th of April, occurred the election of U. S. Senators. The occasion was one, as usual, of great interest, and the hall of the House was crowded to such an extent that it became necessary to bar the doors against all who would go in or out of the hall.

The mode of communication between the convention and the candidates and the crowd outside, while the vote was going on, was by dropping slips of paper out of the windows.

The successful candidates, James H. Lane and Samuel C. Pomeroy, were stopping—the former at the Topeka House, present site of the Federal building; and the latter at the northwest corner of Jackson street and Sixth avenue. The wind blew strong from the south, and there was great difficulty in getting the slips of paper as they were dropped from the windows, and they sometimes floated several blocks away, followed by a crowd of eager, mirthful citizens. The announcement of the election of Lane was carried upon the winds to the immediate locality where he was stopping, two blocks away. It would hardly be respectful to intimate that any corrupting influences were used in those early days of Senator making, but if certain hay lofts that then existed had been given the power of language to testify upon that matter, their words might have betrayed the beginning of practices that, with one of the candidates at least, ended in great confusion.

On the 3d day of June, that being the last business day of the session, it passed an act providing for submitting the question of permanently locating the State capital, agreeably to the provisions of the constitution, and thus precipitating the final contest upon the several contestants for the prize of the State capital.

An effort had been made in the interests of Lawrence to have a special election upon this subject, instead of having the contest at the general election, as provided in the constitution.

Topeka, from the day the town was founded, had put forth claims for the distinction—so had Lawrence and Leavenworth. Lawrence, especially, for two or three years before, had felt quite confident of her ability to win the prize. She had repeatedly secured, substantially without opposition, an adjournment of the Territorial Legislature from Lecompton, and had by that means secured considerable prestige as the seat of legislation. She had a much larger population than Topeka, had a greater relative political influence than any other town in the State, and enjoyed advantages of location for being the State capital over Leavenworth. She regarded Topeka as virtually her only contestant in the canvass; by Topeka she was regarded as a chief competitor and a formidable rival. In good works for the cause of free Kansas, Lawrence had been preëminent, and she enjoyed the measure of gratitude justly due to her.

Under these circumstances, Topeka could only hope to win by her superior advantages of location and untiring effort. She was fully conscious that nothing short of her utmost capabilities would bring for her victory. Hitherto she had contested in constitutional conventions and legislative assemblies; now she must enter the broad arena of the State.

To conduct the canvass with a spirit commensurate with the magnitude of the prize to be lost or won, would require thorough organization, persistent labors by the newspaper press, and a corps of advocates traveling about the State. To maintain these forces for months, and to pay heavy expenses at Leavenworth and other comparatively indifferent localities, on the day of election, would require an electioneering fund very far in excess of any sum Topeka had attempted to raise for a public purpose.

A meeting of citizens was called and a board of managers elected, consisting of some ten or twelve active and public spirited men. This board had for its headquarters the rooms of the *Kansas Tribune*, of which Hon. E. G. Ross was at the time editor, as well as an influential and zealous member of the board. A very grave obstacle for the board to overcome was the procurement of funds. It was regarded as an expense that might with all propriety be borne by the city government, but there being no authority of law for such a course, it was not particularly urged. It was thought that a fund of $40,000 was the smallest with which it were prudent to attempt to get through the canvass. As the question was one in which the whole country about Topeka was almost as much interested as the city itself, it was thought proper to appeal to the land owners in the vicinity. There was very little floating capital in the community, so resort was had to a plan for getting subscriptions to the needed fund in town lots, and country lands. Those might be used directly in some cases, and indirectly for raising money in others. We append a copy of one of the subscription bonds which were used:

KNOW ALL MEN BY THESE PRESENTS, That I, F. W. Giles, of Shawnee county, Kansas, am held and stand bound unto John W. Farnsworth, of Shawnee county, Kansas, in the sum of two hundred and fifty dollars, for the payment of which sum I hereby bind myself and my heirs, firmly by these presents.

Witness my hand and seal, this 29th day of October, A. D. 1861.

The condition of this bond is, that whereas, in consideration of certain services performed by the said Farnsworth, the said Giles has agreed to convey to said Farnsworth the following described tract of land, to-wit: Lots Nos. 56, 58 and 60, on Kansas avenue, city of Topeka, in said county of Shawnee:

Now, if said F. W. Giles shall, upon the capital of the State being located at Topeka, in November next, in accordance with the provisions of sec. 8, art. 15, of the constitution, and of the act passed in pursuance thereof, approved June 3, 1861, give to said Farnsworth or his assigns a good and sufficient deed of said tract of land, then this bond shall be null and void; otherwise in full force and effect.

F. W. GILES. (SEAL.)

Signed, sealed and delivered in presence of Ed. P. Kellam.

But though urgent appeals were made and continued, probably not more than $10,000 was secured in this way. The board of managers was greatly embarrassed in the canvass for want of funds, but this deficiency only made the necessity of fair promises more urgent.

In those days, the conduct of a State canvass was attended with journeyings by stage coach, and by private conveyances, by no means so agreeable as the railroad passage. Some of the board of managers were out by private conveyances for weeks in succession, while others were holding nightly sessions, and devising, with utmost solicitude, means of carrying on the campaign.

Leavenworth did not attempt, by any organized effort, to secure the election, and was consequently in a measure neutral ground, upon which Lawrence and Topeka might concentrate their efforts for favor, with perhaps equal hopes of success. By some means, not necessary here to relate if we could, Topeka was the favored suitor. Judge Saunders W. Johnson and a few other friends, for two or three weeks before the election, were zealous and active co-workers in behalf of Topeka; a fact that gave great encouragement to the committee, and helped them in presenting their cause in other localities.

As the day of election drew near, however, Topekans were alternately buoyed by hopes and depressed by fears, for assertions of breaking Topeka's fortifications, or of turning her flanks, were constantly put forth by the newspapers of Lawrence. The 5th of November came. All was done that could have been done, and the public mind reposed for the results. Topekans were at home that day, and, for aught we know, they all voted. There were neither railroads nor telegraphic wires to bring news of elections to Topeka in those days, and no indication of the result could be had till the evening of the succeeding day. When the stagecoach and hacks of that day did bring the mails, the eagerness of the throng to hear from Leavenworth, Atchison, Lawrence, and other principal localities, could hardly be overstated.

The result was soon known, and Topekans never awoke from sweeter sleep, or in more contented mood, than on the following morning.

The total vote cast upon the question was 14,981. Of these, Topeka received 7,859, Lawrence 5,194, Leavenworth 815—all but fourteen of them from Leavenworth county; Baldwin 437, Emporia 186, and Sac-and-Fox Agency 186. Breckenridge county—now Lyon—gave Lawrence 348 votes, Topeka 201, and Emporia 3; while Linn county gave Emporia 178 votes and Lawrence 107. Of the old Pro-Slavery towns, Lecompton received 2 votes, Kickapoo 2, Whisky Point 2, and Tecumseh 1.

There were thirty-three counties in the State at that time, of which twenty-two gave majorities for Topeka and eleven gave majorities for Lawrence.

The city of Topeka assumed $20,000 of the expenses incurred in the election, and issued its twenty-year five per cent. bonds, which were fully paid.

With the results of the election for State capital, there came to Topeka a sense of security as a commercial point, against rival towns, which was in the highest degree consoling. Leavenworth, Atchison, Wyandotte and Lawrence had each enjoyed great advantages over her, and as we look back upon those advantages, and the sharp rivalry that had existed between those towns—for Topeka was hardly admitted to the position of rivalry with them—the headway made by Topeka seems almost phenomenal. But with the results of this election, the town felt that she had at least one firm resting place for the lever of progress. She assumed a new character, not only in the estimation of her own citizens, but of all persons living in Kansas, or who were contemplating emigration to Kansas.

No excitement in regard to value of real estate took place, but it had at once an assured value in the estimation of holders, that it had not previously possessed. What had been done in building up a town, so far, had been done by constant, intelligent and self-sacrificing effort, the people merging their hopes of individual wealth and position in the progress of the town, its population and wealth. It might have been expected that the desideratum long and anxiously hoped for, finally attained, they would in a large degree relax their efforts; but, conscious of their liability to do so, and fearful of results that might follow such a course, everyone seemed to regard himself as specially charged with the duty of cautioning his neighbors against such a course, and of stimulating them to use the advantages gained—fruits of a seven years' warfare—as an element of power in further advancing the interests of the town.

They did not for a moment contemplate rivalry with Leavenworth: her metropolitan claims were conceded, and looked upon as secure against all contingencies; but towards Atchison, Lawrence and Wyandotte the challenge of rivalry was fearlessly given.

Lawrence had received a severe disappointment in not securing the capital. Her political influence had been greater than that of any other locality through all the Territorial period, and she had confidently expected to continue that influence under the State government. She was justly proud of her position in political, educational and commercial affairs, and was in no mood to admit Topeka to a rivalry with herself in these particulars.

THE STATE CAPITOL.

AT the session of Congress of 1855–6, an appropriation in the sum of $50,000 was made for the erection of a Territorial capitol at Lecompton, and a superintendent of construction appointed. A site was secured, and the work of building commenced in the spring of 1856, and that season the foundation walls were raised a little above the ground. Iron columns, lime, glass and finishing materials were purchased, and upon the ground, when, the appropriation being already exhausted, the superintendent was removed, and work nevermore renewed upon it. It was evident that a large part of the appropriation had in some way been lost. Possibly it had been used in efforts to sustain the slaveholders' government.

The first session of the State Legislature authorized the sale of such materials as had not become entirely wasted or carried away, but only a few hundred dollars was realized from the sale. A Christian church subsequently purchased the site and foundation walls, and over a part of them erected a building for worship and educational purposes, under the name of Lane University, in honor of Gen. James H. Lane, than whom no man did more valiant service in the cause of free Kansas.

At the time of final action by Congress upon the question of admitting the Territory of Kansas to the place of a State in the Union, there were no public halls in Topeka suitable for the Legislature to hold its sessions in, and great efforts were requisite at that early season of the year to provide them. The House of Representatives occupied the second story of a building known as the Gale block, and situated on lots Nos. 194 and 196 Kansas avenue, and the Senate a hall in the third story of a building known as the Ritchie block, situated on the southeast corner of Kansas and Sixth avenues. The State offices, too, were mostly provided in this building. The sessions of 1862 and 1863 were also held in these respective places, except that, during the last part of the session of 1862, the House of Representatives held its sessions in the Congregational church, corner of Harrison and Seventh streets, on account of the bad condition of the roof of the Gale block.

By an act of the Legislature, approved March 2, 1863, the Secretary of State was directed to enter into a contract on behalf of the State with Messrs. Gordon, Mills, Gage and Farnsworth, to erect a temporary capitol building upon lots Nos. 131, 133, 135 and 137 Kansas avenue, in the city of Topeka, according to plans and specifications, and to lease the said building for the term of five years, with the privilege of ten years, at the annual rental of $1,500; the property, under the same act, being exempted from all taxation during the period of its occupancy by the State.

The contract was duly entered into, the building erected, and taken possession of by the State officers in the following autumn. The building occupied by the convention in the fall of 1855, for framing that somewhat famous document, the Topeka constitution, and locally known as Constitution Hall, was embraced within the limits of the building prepared for the State—the principal room thereof becoming the Senate chamber.

The founders of the town had made provision in platting it for two public gardens, one bounded by Jackson street on the east and by Harrison street on the west—the other by Polk street on the east and Western avenue on the west, and both parcels by Eighth avenue on the north and by Tenth avenue on the south. The Topeka Association had from the beginning of its enterprise designed to offer the first-named site to the State for capitol purposes, in the event of the State capital being located at Topeka; and in conformity with this design, and general expectations, the Topeka Association, through its special trustee, C. K. Holliday, presented to the State the twenty acres of land upon which the capitol has been erected, on the 23d of January, 1862. The present was duly accepted by joint resolution, as follows:

> That the tender to the State of Kansas of a block of land in the city of Topeka, suitable for capitol purposes, made by the Hon. C. K. Holliday, as president and special trustee of the Topeka Association, is accepted, and the Auditor of State

is hereby authorized to receive the deed therefor in behalf of the State, and cause it to be properly recorded and preserved.

The Legislature at the same session made an appropriation of $1,000 to defray the expenses of a stone fence around Capitol square. The contract for construction of the fence was effected with Mr. John Otis, for the sum of $995, and the work duly performed.

By the terms of the act of admission, Congress had appropriated ten sections of land, to be selected by the Governor, "for the purpose of completing the public buildings, or for the erection of others, at the seat of government." The lands were duly selected and sold, and the proceeds appropriated from time to time to building purposes.

At the session of 1866, a plan was adopted for a State House; also an act to secure the erection of the east wing. The Governor and other State officers were constituted a board of commissioners to carry out the purposes of the act, with authority to determine the particular kind of stone of which the building should be constructed. There was a general desire that the edifice should be constructed of the white magnesian limestone from Manhattan or Junction City, but apprehensions existed as to the practicability of procuring stone from those localities, from the fact that there might not be railroad facilities of transportation so soon as the stone would be needed. It was finally determined to use stone from a quarry in the bluff to the southeast of Topeka, which in color and other qualities seemed satisfactory, and by Prof. Mudge, State Geologist, reported to be a better material for the purpose in view than the Junction City stone. Forty thousand dollars were appropriated to defray the expenses of the work, and the sale of a portion of the lands that had been donated by the General Government for purposes of public buildings, enjoined upon the commissioners as a means of supplying the treasury. The work was pressed with reasonable vigor for the times, and the foundation and a few stones of the basement were in place that year. On the 17th of October, 1866, the ceremonies of placing the corner stone were observed by State officials and citizens, under directions of the Grand Lodge of Ancient and Accepted Masons of the State. A tin box, about ten by twelve inches square, and some ten inches deep, in which were placed various Masonic symbols, coins, State papers, newspapers, and other articles, was placed under the stone forming the water table at the northeast corner of the building, a chamber having been prepared in the stone of exact dimensions to fit the tin box. From insufficient seasoning of the rock used that year, they were so badly cracked by the frosts of the succeeding winter, that the work, down to a depth of three or four feet below the water table, had to be removed.

Topeka had never felt entirely at ease in regard to the permanency of the State capital location. The battle over the subject in 1861 had settled the matter as to any further rivalry from the east, but the population to the west was increasing rapidly, and towns of importance yearly coming into prominence. Junction City and Emporia were urging another election upon the subject when the small appropriation for State House was made in 1866, and the failure of the Topeka stone had counterbalanced any advantages that Topeka had gained by that appropriation, by the time the subject of further appropriations came before the Legislature, in 1867. The friends of Junction City, especially, were urging the superior advantages of that locality, on account of her magnesian limestone, which was now conceded to be the best material available for the capitol. Topeka was particularly pleased, therefore, when, on the 19th of February, 1867, an appropriation of $100,000 was made for advancing work on the State House. A board of three practical and experienced men was chosen to superintend the work, with authority to determine the kind of stone to be used. The upper part of the foundation was relaid with a better quality of Topeka stone, and the superstructure built of the Junction City stone.

At the session of the Legislature in 1868, an additional appropriation of $150,000 was made to continue work on the State House, and under the expectation that it would be completed and ready for occupancy by the State officers and the Legislature before the session of 1869. It was not expected, however, that the east porch could be erected. The building was substantially completed, as it had been expected to be, and in its halls the

State Legislature first convened on the 12th day of January, 1869.

An appropriation of $8,000 was made by the Legislature of 1872 to grade the capitol grounds, build a fence in place of the stone wall previously existing around the grounds, and to plant trees.

An architectural gardener was employed to furnish plans, and the work was performed under the superintendence of Mr. Wm. Tweeddale. Among other work in tree planting, was a row of elms on Eighth avenue, and on Jackson street. They were of unusual height for transplanting in this State, were treated with great caution, but nearly all died. In subsequent years the citizens inaugurated a series of "arbor days," occurring at proper season in the spring, and on which citizens would march in procession to the capitol grounds, each with a tree or more upon his shoulder, and there plant, and then care for the trees of their planting, till they were sufficiently rooted to require no further attention.

Thousands of trees were planted under this generous stimulus, and generally with complete success. Much of the tree planting by the State resulted in labor and money lost, from want of proper attention after planting. Indeed, the whole expenditure of $8,000 in grading and attempts to beautify the grounds yielded such meagre returns as to create a feeling of disappointment, and no further attempt in that direction has since been made at the State's expense.

At the session of 1879, provision was made for the erection of the west wing of the State House, by an appropriation of $60,000 from moneys then in the treasury to commence the work; and for its continuance a tax of half a mill was imposed upon the taxable property of the State for the years 1879 and 1880.

The foundations were completed in 1879, and the superstructure substantially so in the fall of 1880. The Representative Hall was occupied at the session of 1881, though unplastered and otherwise unfinished till the fall of 1882.

The half-mill tax that had been levied yielded in 1879 about $72,000, and in 1880 about $80,000. At the session of 1881, this tax was continued for two years more, to provide funds to cover other work to be done on that building and to commence work on the central building. The total cost of the west wing was only about $300,000, against $500,000 that the east wing cost—very much inferior to the former in material and workmanship. The great difference in the cost of the two buildings, substantially the same in size and architectural design, may be attributed in part to causes common to all the country during and immediately succeeding the great Rebellion—the depreciation of the currency.

At the session of 1883, a further appropriation was made to continue the work on the foundations of the central building, and that most substantial work was completed in the fall of 1885, at an expense to the State of about $200,000. It rests upon a stratum of hard limestone about twenty feet below the grade level, and we have not seen a better specimen of masonry. Col. William Tweeddale, one of the contractors for doing that work, had been connected with the work of building the State House from 1866. Contracts were made for constructing the basement story of the main building in the fall of 1885, and the work of preparing material prosecuted during most of the succeeding winter.

When the east wing of the State House was constructed, it was necessary to make provision for the accommodation of both the Senate and the House of Representatives in the hall now used as a Senate Chamber. To that end a wall divided the room, and about a third of the entire space on the north was-used for the Senate Chamber.

When the west wing was finished, and the Representative Hall provided in it, the wall in the hall of the east wing was removed, thus leaving an unnecessarily large and unsightly room, which for two or three years was used as a Senate Chamber.

The roof of that wing had been cheaply constructed, and needed extensive changes and improvements. The subject of these repairs, and of a suitable remodeling and improvement of the Senate Chamber being under consideration by the Legislature of 1885, plans and estimates for these changes were provided, and an appropriation of $75,000 made to carry them into effect.

When the Legislature convened in its session of 1886, it was surprised to learn that the State House Commissioners had already expended upwards of $80,000, and that the completion of the work already contracted for would require $35,000 more. A joint committee of the two houses was charged to investigate the matter. In their report they made but slight objection to the style or to the quality of work done, but charged the Commissioners with dereliction of duty, and advised their removal from office. It was very near the close of the session when the report was made, and the Legislature had not time to examine further into the case as it desired to do, but the report of the committee was adopted—in the House, by a vote of 102 to 3; and in the Senate, by a similar majority. The Commissioners immediately tendered their resignations to the Governor, by whom they were accepted, and others appointed in their place. A further appropriation to the amount of $45,000 was made to complete and furnish the Senate Chamber.

The Commissioners, in their report for 1885, stated the amounts paid under their supervision on account of the several parts of the State House, as follows:

On the east wing, inclusive of contracts for work not completed	$115,573.62
On account of the west wing	313,903.19
On account of the center building	197,030.03
	$626,506.84

To this sum may be added $500,000, expenditures on account of the original construction of the east wing.

ST. JOSEPH & TOPEKA RAILROAD.

BY the Territorial Legislature of 1856–7, there was chartered a railroad with the above title. As its name imports, the purpose of the company was to build a railroad from St. Joseph, Mo., to the rude little settlement in Kansas styled "Topeka"—a word sometimes defined in those days, and not inaptly, to signify *to peak*—to look into, or around, to see what was going on.

The company was fully organized at St. Joseph on the 16th of June, 1857, by the election of Reuben Middleton, Armstrong Beattei, W. P. Thomson, C. K. Holliday, F. L. Crane, M. C. Dickey, A. L. Lee, John Steward, E. H. Grant, John W. Foreman, R. McBratney and Robert Riddle as directors.

The directors organized by the choice of W. Prodas Thomson, president; F. L. Crane, treasurer, and R. A. Johnson, secretary. At the time of this organization the Hannibal & St. Joseph road was not built more than half way across Missouri, and the Missouri Pacific had not passed Jefferson City. Gov. Willard Hall, at the time president of the Hannibal & St. Joseph road, was a man out of time in Missouri—he knew that he was building that road for some purpose, and for what better purpose than to strike the center of Kansas, as it was then understood to be, and at once afford the impatient people of that Territory a ready means of communication with their Eastern friends.

Mr. Hall took an active interest in the road at once, visited Topeka and many points on the line of the road, to work up an interest in it, and declared it his desire to have the road constructed from the Missouri river to the Kansas river simultaneously with the completion of the Hannibal & St. Joseph.

There were seventy-four subscriptions made to the stock of the company at St. Joseph, twenty-one at Topeka, and a proportionate number at each of the towns on the line.

Among the subscriptions at Topeka was one of a thousand dollars by "R. J. Walker, for the benefit of the Episcopal Female Seminary of Topeka, to be held for it by E. C. K. Garvey, C. K. Holliday and Jeremiah Murphy, as trustees."

A citizens' committee at Topeka issued the following circular, and gave it an extensive circulation in the East:

RAILROAD CIRCULAR.

Having taken the preliminary steps for the organization of a company for the construction of a railroad between Topeka and St. Joseph, to connect, at the latter place, with the Hannibal & St. Joseph Railroad, we wish to call your attention to some of the advantages and the feasibility of such an enterprise, and to solicit your coöperation to whatever extent you may consider it for your interest to bestow.

The distance from Topeka to St. Joe is about seventy miles. The Kansas river, at Topeka, can be bridged at a moderate expense, and from that to the Missouri, opposite St. Joseph, there are no considerable streams to be bridged. The greater part of the route is over an ordinarily level country, unsurpassed in fertility, and much resembling the interior part of Missouri, through which the Hannibal & St. Joseph Railroad is located. The supply of timber is about equal, and that of stone much better. There is ground for anticipating that such a road would yield a large percentage on the money invested in its construction, and that it can be built at less than the average cost.

Not only would the greater portion of Kansas be tributary to it, but, in conjunction with the Hannibal & St. Joseph and the northern cross railroads, it would constitute the main thoroughfare of trade and travel between the southwest and the northern and northeastern States. There is reason to believe, also, that the main track of the Pacific road, in case of the early completion of this road, would be extended from this terminus, and the railroad to the Gulf of Mexico, recommended by Gov. Geary in his recent message, would also probably connect with it at this place.

But the greatest object to be secured at present by this enterprise, is the trade to Santa Fé and New Mexico, which is annually very considerable, and will richly reward the earliest railroad communication that may be extended in that direction. This trade is increasing yearly, and is composed mainly of the manufactures of the Middle and Eastern States; all of which, in the event of railroad communication west and south of St. Joseph, must pass over roads leading from the East to that place, affording them, in itself, a source of revenue by no means inconsiderable.

It is proposed that the Gulf road shall touch upon the northwestern shore of the Gulf, about 600 miles nearly due south from Topeka, to be eventually continued into Mexico.

This road, from the considerations already mentioned, will make the route from Chicago to Topeka the most important thoroughfare of trade and travel in the United States, with Chicago for the point of concentration from the North and East, thence passing over the Chicago & Quincy, the Hannibal & St. Joseph, and the St. Joseph & Topeka railroads, to Topeka, the distributing point for southern and western Kansas, Oregon, California, New Mexico and Texas.

J. MURPHY,
F. L. CRANE,
S. T. WALKLEY,
S. GORDON,
E. G. ROSS,
Committee.

If the language of this seems extravagant, it is but necessary for one to go back in imagination twenty-five years and scrutinize the situation of commerce and communication as they then existed, to see that is but tame reality. We hesitate not to say, that for comprehensiveness and boldness, the scheme of striking across Missouri to a point on the Kansas river a hundred miles interior, its date being remembered, was one of the most intelligent and bold conceptions of railroad building that has marked the age.

St. Joseph and Doniphan each subscribed $50,000 to the enterprise, and Topeka $30,000. The Doniphan *Post*, in an editorial upon the subject in November, 1859, said: "A very wealthy company has charge of the building of the road; all the necessary surveys have been made; all the towns along the route have taken large subscriptions, the principal part of which they will pay up immedidiately, in grading from their respective places, so as to secure its completion in the shortest space of time possible. Already a great deal of heavy work has been done on this part of the route. Two miles have been put in order for the iron, and several miles more let out in short sections, so as to secure the grading of the first two miles before winter sets in. We confidently expect to have a railroad connection with Doniphan by the Fourth of July, and with Topeka in less than two years."

On the 23d of April, 1860, the first locomotive engine brought to the west of the Missouri river was placed upon the track of the St. Joseph & Topeka Railroad, at Elwood.

The Hannibal & St. Joseph road had been completed in the previous February.

Even during the calamitous year of 1860, when all other interests languished in Kansas, this one worked steadily on, and it seemed that Topeka would surely be the first town in the Kansas valley to enjoy the advantages of a railroad, and looking back from this point of time, a quarter of a century afterwards, there appears no reason why she was not, but the War of the Rebellion. St. Joseph was the chief power in the enterprise, and Gov. Hall and her business citizens were zealous for its consummation; but with the Rebellion, and Jefferson Thompson her mayor, all commercial interests were forgotten.

As we look back upon the life of Topeka, we see the failure of that, her first railroad enterprise, to have been the only calamity she has ever sustained.

KANSAS CENTRAL RAILROAD.

IN the spring of 1858, W. Y. Roberts and associates, interested in the town of Wyandotte, inaugurated an enterprise of a railroad up the Kansas valley from their town to Fort Riley. They associated with themselves certain capitalists of Pennsylvania, and, securing the services of engineer O. B. Gunn, entered immediately upon the work of survey. A line was first surveyed from Wyandotte to Lawrence on the north side of the river, thinking to cross the river at that point and continue on the south side to Topeka. Subsequently, in the same year, a survey was made upon the south side between Wyandotte and Lawrence, to determine which was the more feasible route, and thence continued to Topeka, where the line recrossed the river to the north side. This road was styled the Kansas Central. It was expected by the projectors that a road would be extended down the Missouri river from St. Joseph, and thus afford them connection by that route at an earlier day than the spirit of the Missouri Pacific would justify them in expecting by it.

The hopes of Topeka in March, 1860, in view of the encouraging railroad prospects, are set forth in an editorial of the *State Record*, as follows:

> With the rapid advancement of the St. Joseph & Topeka Railroad, we foresee the opening up for Topeka of a future unparalleled for brilliancy in the West. The assured completion of this road (the St. Joe and Topeka) will make an almost air line to all points of the North and East, giving us communication with the great commercial marts of the country, and affording us a speedy outlet for the immense productions of this fertile valley. The Kansas Central road will not be long behind the St. Joe in reaching this point, and then we will have concentrated here a railroad interest which will attract capital and trade from every direction, and tend to the aggregation of commercial interests at this point sufficient of themselves to create a city of the first magnitude. With the completion of one or both of these roads, the immense trade of New Mexico will at once make its depot here, throwing into our city a commerce far surpassing that which constituted the glory of Damascus in the day of her greatest prosperity.

In justification of what may now seem extravagance in the foregoing anticipations, it should be remembered that the enterprise of the St. Joseph & Topeka road was in such state of forwardness as to demonstrate the practicability of its completion to Topeka within one year of the time the article was written, even by the slow process of construction then practiced, and that the wealthy stockholders of the Hannibal & St. Joseph road were fully conscious of the advantages of an early extension of their road into the heart of Kansas.

An attempt was made in 1862 to carry forward the enterprise of the Kansas Central. In April of that year a preliminary survey was made as far as to Topeka, on the south side of the river, from

Lawrence, and the right-of-way for a portion of the distance secured. It was stated that every land owner on the line from Wyandotte to Topeka had offered to give the right-of-way over his lands. The Topeka city council passed an ordinance granting the right-of-way through the city, but that was about the last of the scheme. The exigencies of the nation were fatal to all such.

It is idle to speculate about what might have been—and yet it is interesting to remember in this connection that, with the St. Joseph & Topeka and the Kansas Central roads completed to Topeka in 1862, and with a road from Emporia to Topeka within two years thereafter, as there was a probability of there being, and no road from the East to Kansas City, as there was not till the summer of 1866, Topeka would certainly have enjoyed advantages in a preëminent degree to develop a commercial strength invincible to all rival towns. To the disastrous drouth in Kansas in 1860, and to the cloud of civil strife gathering blackness over the nation that year, and culminating in the civil war, may reasonably be attributed the changed results.

UNION PACIFIC RAILROAD.

THE circumstance of greatest importance to Topeka in 1862, as well as to other towns in the valley of the Kansas river, was the passage by Congress, on the 1st of July in that year, of the Pacific Railroad law. Kansas having attained the position of a sovereign State in the Union, Congress did not, of course, assume to grant right-of-way to the company through her domain, but provided for the construction of the road through Kansas by a corporation to which the State had already given authority requisite in the case—the Leavenworth, Pawnee & Western Railroad Company, incorporated by the Legislature of 1855. The declared purpose of this company was to build a railroad and telegraph line from the Missouri river, at the mouth of the Kansas river, on the south side thereof, so as to connect with the Missouri Pacific Railroad, of Missouri, westward to the 100th meridian, where, by the terms of the Congressional act, it was to connect with the main line of the Union Pacific road extending westward from Omaha; and the said Leavenworth, Pawnee & Western Railroad Company was required to build 100 miles of its road within two years after filing with the Secretary of the Interior its acceptance of the provisions of the act. It was popularly understood that the L. P. & W. R. R. Co. had, immediately after the passage of the act, filed its acceptance, and hence the sanguine expectations of railroad facilities for Topeka by the autumn of 1864.

At the beginning of that year, however, nothing had been done about building the road, and the people of the Kansas river towns were still anxiously awaiting events in that direction.

Leavenworth had a commercial problem to solve presenting many difficulties. That city controlled the policy of the L. P. & W. R. R. Co., and that company was depended upon to build the Pacific Railroad through Kansas. The difficulty of greatest moment was as to how to build the road from the mouth of the river westward, by the natural route up the valley of the Kaw, without greatly damaging the commercial prospects of Leavenworth, and proportionately enhancing the opportunities of a rival town at the initial point, as well as of the towns of Lawrence and Topeka. The dilemma was oppressive, and she sought to relieve herself by going to Congress for supplemental legislation to the act of 1862. Lawrence and Topeka fully conceived of the great straits to which Leavenworth felt herself reduced, and somewhat apprehensive that she would induce the L. P. & W. R. R. Co., under the somewhat indefinite terms of the act, to so locate its road past their respective localities as that it would be rather a curse than a blessing to them, were not adverse to accompanying her again to the halls of legislation at Washington. The result of the matter was, as to Leavenworth, a very absurd provision, as an amendment to the original act, to the effect that the L. P. & W. R. R. Co. "*should* construct the road from the mouth of the Kansas river by the way of Leavenworth, and thence by way of Lawrence and Topeka, or on the bank of the river opposite said towns," with a proviso, however, that if "by way of Leavenworth" should not be deemed the best route, "then the said railroad company should, within two years, build a railroad from the city of Leavenworth to unite with the main stem at or near the city of Lawrence."

By this craftily drawn amendment, it was made compulsory upon the L. P. & W. R. R. Co. to do the thing which it most desired to do, and as Leavenworth flattered herself, make that city in reality the starting point of the Pacific Railroad, Eastern Division. Subsequent events have demonstrated the fallacy of their dreams. Lawrence and Topeka were great gainers by the clause in the amendment which required the road to be built "on the bank of the river," for the company had intended to locate its line so far away from the bank of the river as to greatly damage those cities, unless they paid heavy subsidies to make it otherwise. This legislation was accepted as final upon the subject, and Topeka fondly looked once more to an early construction of the road.

Work was at length commenced, about the 1st of July, 1864, and prosecuted with great vigor, though the assassination of Samuel Hallett, the chief contractor, at Wyandotte, on the 27th of July, occasioned some delay.

The road was completed to Lawrence about the last of November, 1864. On the 19th of January, 1865, the Legislature being in session, the members accepted an invitation from the president of the road to a ride from Lawrence to Wyandotte. Adjournment was taken till the 23d, and the members were conveyed to Lawrence from Topeka upon carriages, at the expense of the railroad company, and availed themselves of a ride over the first fifty miles of railroad built in Kansas.

On the 1st of January, 1866, the road was completed to Topeka. On the 15th of May, the Leavenworth branch was completed to Lawrence. On the 25th of June, the Missouri Pacific was completed to Kansas City, and on the 28th of August the Union Pacific to Manhattan; and thus, in eleven years from the founding of the town, Topeka had railroad facilities of great value.

Down in the little dark cabin, eleven years before, a playful wager was made that the Hannibal & St. Joseph road would be extended to Topeka in ten years, and but for the slaveholders' rebellion it in all probability would have been, with a benefit to Topeka very greatly superior to any derived from the Union Pacific, or any other road.

THE SANTA FÉ RAILROAD.

FROM the period of the settlement of the Territory, there had existed a hope that the General Government would make a reservation of public lands to Kansas in aid of the construction of railroads, and a provision to that effect was always incorporated in her applications for admission into the Union as a State.

On the 17th of October, 1860—the admission of the State under the Wyandotte constitution being then pending before Congress—a general railroad convention was held at Topeka, to agree upon a system of roads for which a donation of lands should be designated. The convention was composed of about 125 delegates, and representing twenty of the most populous and influential counties of the Territory. The convention agreed upon a schedule of roads, as follows:

First, A railroad from the western boundary of the State of Missouri, where the Osage Valley and Southern Kansas Railroad terminates, westward, by way of Emporia, Fremont and Council Grove, to the Fort Riley military reservation.

Second, A railroad from the city of Wyandotte up the Kansas valley, by way of Lawrence, Lecompton, Tecumseh, Topeka, Manhattan and Fort Riley military reservation, to the western boundary of the Territory.

Third, A railroad running from Lawrence to the southern boundary of Kansas, in the direction of Fort Gibson and Galveston bay.

Fourth, A railroad from Atchison, by way of Topeka, through the Territory, in the direction of Santa Fé.

Fifth, A railroad from Atchison to the western boundary of Kansas.

In this schedule, the interests of Atchison and Topeka were sedulously guarded, in what they had for years regarded as their most inviting field—the southwest. Neither Leavenworth, Wyandotte nor Lawrence were permitted to claim advantages in that direction; and in justification of this feeling, it may be remarked that a year and a half previously the Legislature had chartered the Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fé Railroad Company, and those towns had come to regard the country to the southwest as peculiarly theirs in railroad enterprises.

On the 3d of March, 1863, Congress granted lands in aid of the construction of the Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fé Railroad, agreeably to the general plan of its charter, and also to a railroad from Leavenworth, by way of Lawrence, and thence southerly, in the direction of Galveston bay, "with a branch from Lawrence, by the valley of the Wakarusa river, to the point on the Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fé Railroad where said road intersects the

Neosho river," subsequently changed to read, "to Emporia," had been incorporated in the act at the special instance of the citizens of Lawrence, and it constituted her first successful thrust towards Topeka, in efforts to appropriate to herself a portion of the trade of the great southwestern country. It was regarded with some misgivings by Topeka.

On the first of April, and again in the following September, meetings of officers and stockholders of the Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fé Railroad were held at Topeka, with reference to the commencement of work on the road. Delegations were repeatedly sent to New York, Washington and Boston, in furtherance of the interests of this enterprise, in the years 1866, 1867 and 1868; and at length, on the 27th of June, 1868, intelligence was received at Topeka that a contract was concluded at New York for the building of the road.

Late in the autumn of that year, the work of grading was commenced, but the winter was one of unusual inclemency, and little work was done till the spring of 1869. It was necessary to have a connection with the Union Pacific road, over which it might receive its rails, so a bridge had to be constructed over the Kansas river. This was completed on the 30th of March, 1869. The work of construction was then prosecuted with diligence, and the road opened to business as far as to Burlingame at the close of September. On the 4th of October, an excursion train was run from Topeka to Burlingame. Gov. Harvey formally accepted the twenty-six miles of road.

The building of this road created a deep interest at Leavenworth, Atchison and St. Joseph. The stockholders of the St. Joseph & Topeka road made repeated efforts at Topeka to awaken the old enthusiasm over that enterprise; but, while this had been the first and most fondly cherished of all railroad schemes at Topeka, the Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fé had secured the confidence of her people, and would substantially cover the same ground as the St. Joseph, and they were reconciled to a separation from their first love, and the enterprise was abandoned.

The people of Leavenworth, too, had expectations of railroad connection with Chicago by way of the Rock Island road, and in 1870 made an effort to have that road extended *via* Leavenworth to Topeka. Officers of that road and citizens of Leavenworth came to Topeka, and proposed to extend the road to Topeka within one year from that time if the county of Shawnee would subscribe $200,000 to its stock, and issue its bonds in payment. Representative citizens gave such assurances of support that a charter was immediately taken, under the name of the Chicago, Southwestern & Pacific Railroad Company. A proposition of subscription to its stock was submitted to popular vote of the county on the second day of August, and received a large affirmative majority. As to the "Southwestern & Pacific" part of the enterprise, Topeka was indifferent, because she had secured her full fruition in that field by the Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fé, but the direct road to

Chicago would have been of incalculable value to her. The enterprise failed of consummation, as ten years before had failed the St. Joseph & Topeka road. Kansas City is the emporium, but the influences that made her such for long years lay unheeded at the hands of St. Joseph and of Leavenworth; and Topeka, anxious and impatient, urged their acceptance. Disloyalty to the nation, as well as to her own immediate interests, were the bane of St. Joseph; individual ambitions and jealousies the scourge of Leavenworth.

The work of constructing the Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fé to Atchison was completed in the spring of 1872, but that section was not opened to public use till midsummer.

The proposition of subscribing $250,000 to the stock of the Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fé road was submitted to Shawnee county on the 2d of July, 1867, and prevailed by a vote of 603 to 397; $150,000 was payable when the road should be in operation from Topeka to the southern line of the county, and $100,000 when it should be in operation from Topeka to the northern line of the county. Twenty-year seven per cent. bonds were issued in payment for the stock. Subsequently the whole block of stock was sold, and the proceeds appropriated to the retirement of bonds issued for its purchase, and in that way $101,000 of the bonds were paid.

It had been supposed that the location of the general offices of the Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fé Railroad, and of its shops, would as a matter of course be located at Topeka, and such temporary accommodations as the company required for those purposes had been maintained at Topeka; but as the line was extended westward there arose rivals of Topeka for the location of these very important adjuncts of the road; so that when the company was ready to take final action in this regard, considerable apprehension was entertained that Topeka might lose these important advantages.

Under these circumstances, a proposition came from the company, that if the city would give it $100,000, the shops and general offices should be finally located and maintained at Topeka. This proposition was submitted to vote of the city about the 25th of July, 1872, and prevailed by a large majority. The bonds were not delivered till the 9th of September, 1874, and drew interest from that date, but the company did not act in the matter of erecting buildings with the promptness that it was supposed it would. At length it purchased the building that had been erected by the bridge shops company in 1872, and since that purchase it has been almost continually erecting new and very substantial buildings, and enlarging its facilities for the repair and construction of cars and engines, so that in 1885 its accommodations in this line were among the best in the country.

In 1883–4, the company erected their building for general offices, on the corner of Ninth and Jackson streets, a most substantial and commodious edifice indeed. This is the only gratuity the city of Topeka has made to any public enterprise.

She has taken stock in but one railroad—the Midland; and while she sustained a loss of some $75,000 on that, it was entirely due to neglect; otherwise the investment might have been a source of profit.

So, too, the county of Shawnee has made but one investment in railroad stocks, and in that it sustained a heavy loss, while, by proper attention on the part of its public officers, a profit would have been realized. Both the city and the county, however, have been fortunate in such enterprises as compared with other cities and counties in Kansas.

THE MIDLAND RAILROAD.

ON the 22d day of July, 1867, articles of incorporation were filed, under the title of the St. Louis, Lawrence & Denver Railroad Company, with a declared purpose of building a railroad from Pleasant Hill, in the State of Missouri, to the city of Lawrence, in the State of Kansas, and thence westward to the city of Denver, in the State of Colorado.

The people of Lawrence were chiefly instrumental in inaugurating this enterprise, the primary object being to establish a somewhat more direct route between that city and St. Louis than that *via* Kansas City, and at the same time to inflict a blow upon the latter city, with which she did not hesitate to assert a rivalry for the commerce of Kansas.

Topeka looked with no disfavor upon the enterprise as to that part of the line lying to the east of Lawrence, but was rather pleased to see it. At the same time she had some misgivings as to the purpose of her wily neighbor, as to that part of the road lying to the west of Lawrence.

The county of Douglas, the city of Lawrence, and citizens of that locality, subscribed to over $350,000 of the stock of the company, and anticipated very great advantages from the construction of the road. But the enterprise dragged heavily, so that it was past midsummer in 1871 before the grading was completed to Lawrence from Pleasant Hill, and the close of that year before the road was opened to travel.

There had existed since 1869 two other corporations in the railroad interests of Lawrence, which the people of Topeka had reasons to suspect were designs of evil towards them, one being known as the Lawrence & Emporia Railroad Company, the purpose of which was declared to be to build a road from Lawrence, through Douglas, Osage and Lyon counties, to Emporia; and the other as the Lawrence, Wakarusa Valley & Denver Railroad Company, with a declared purpose to build a road from Lawrence, *via* the Wakarusa valley, the towns of Monmouth and Auburn, in Shawnee county, and thence by the best route to the city of Denver; and now that the Pleasant Hill road had reached completion to Lawrence, there appeared upon the scene, July 18, 1871, still another corporation, having for title the Lawrence, Topeka & Solomon City Railroad Company, with the declared purpose of building a road from Lawrence, *via* Alma, in Wabaunsee county, to Solomon City, in the county of Dickinson.

Several days after the date of this last-named charter—July 25th—the commissioners of Shaw[illegible]ee county, upon solicitation of the promoters of this last-named road, joined by the people of Monmouth and Auburn townships, issued their proclamation calling for a vote by those townships upon the proposition of subscribing to the stock of the St. Louis, Lawrence & Denver Railroad Company, *or* to the stock of the Chicago, Southwestern & Pacific Railroad Company, (a Leavenworth enterprise for which a charter had been taken,) the former to the amount of $10,000, and the latter to the amount of $25,000, and on the next day a proposition was submitted to Shawnee county for a subscription of $160,000 to the stock of the Lawrence, Topeka & Solomon City Railroad Company.

The election upon these several propositions was set for the 31st day of August, 1871, and the proposition to the county was conditional that the county should issue its bonds in payment for stock when the road should be completed to Alma.

The varied form of these propositions, and especially the discovery near the time of election that neither in the charter of the Lawrence, Topeka & Solomon City road, nor in the proposition as submitted, was Topeka at all named as a point on the line of the road, created a lively apprehension that a trap had been set for Topeka by their crafty neighbors at Lawrence; and upon this fact being brought to the notice of the board of commissioners, it at once canceled the order of election to be held on the 31st of August, and submitted the proposition anew, for an election to be held on the 7th of November (date of the general election), and conditioned that Topeka should be a point on the line.

Topeka also immediately caused two other propositions to be submitted to the county, one being to subscribe $100,000 to the stock of the Lawrence & Topeka Railroad Company, a corporation that had existed since 1868, and the other to subscribe for $100,000 of the stock of the Topeka, Ottawa & Fort Scott Railroad Company, the first of these upon condition that the road should be completed from Topeka to a connection with the St. Louis, Lawrence & Denver road at Lawrence on or before the first day of January, 1873, and that the latter should be completed between Topeka and Fort Scott on or before the 1st of July, 1873.

Here were pending propositions to the people of Shawnee county, including those made directly to Monmouth and Auburn townships, of $495,000, a circumstance in itself sufficient to create a lively discussion, but the interest was still further heightened by the palpable fact that Lawrence was playing a shrewd game to flank Topeka by a railroad up the Wakarusa valley, leading into districts important to the trade of Topeka, and making, too, Topeka and Shawnee county subservient to the scheme.

Upon the plot being discovered, and the above-named measures being taken to avert its purposes, the people of Lawrence lost all interest in the subject. The election on the several propositions resulted in Monmouth and Auburn townships voting their respective quotas to the Lawrence, Topeka & Solomon City road; and the county at large, in favor of $100,000 each to the Topeka & Lawrence and the Topeka, Ottawa & Fort Scott roads; but very few votes outside of the townships named were given in favor of the Lawrence, Topeka & Solomon City road.

There was really little expectation of building the Topeka, Ottawa & Fort Scott road, but the submission of the question of aid served a purpose.

Topeka was now fully aroused to the importance of building a road to connect with the St. Louis, Lawrence & Denver road at Lawrence, and on the seventh day after this election caused to be submitted to the city of Topeka a proposition to subscribe $100,000 to the stock of the Lawrence & Topeka Railway Company, which, in connection with the $100,000 that had been voted by the county, would, it was thought, be a sure guaranty of the construction of the road.

The vote upon this last-named proposition was taken on the 10th day of October, and resulted in its adoption, and on the 24th day of that month Mayor Bartling subscribed to the stock, and placed the city bonds in escrow. Tecumseh township also subscribed $15,000 to this enterprise.

A corps of engineers were put upon the line of the Lawrence & Topeka road Nov. 10th, three days after the election, the directors feeling that, as they had but about a year in which to construct the road in order to secure the several public subscriptions to its stock, no time could be lost.

Lawrence was not at all pleased with the idea of Topeka coming to her doors to bear away the slight advantages she had secured, at extraordinary sacrifice, in the St. Louis, Pleasant Hill & Lawrence road, and at once determined to place every obstacle in the way of its consummation that she could. One of her newspapers, having reference to the matter, remarked that "Topeka was trying to follow in the tracks of Lawrence in the matter of public improvements. She had got gas, and might get street cars, but it would wager a new hat she would not have the Pleasant Hill extension in a hurry."

Considerable was done in the matter of survey, and in securing right-of-way, during the winter of 1871–2, but no arrangements perfected for securing funds with which to prosecute the work with vigor, till past midsummer in 1872; and under the arrangements then perfected, many disappointments and vexatious delays were experienced. The directors were not able to make the public subscriptions to stock available for raising money as they had expected to do, and were obliged to use their individual means to an extent much beyond their stock subscriptions.

Notwithstanding these annoying difficulties, the work of grading went on with encouraging rapidity, the line being completed to within five miles of Lawrence by the 1st of September, and negotiations pending for the rails. An extraordinary obstacle was then interposed by the city council of Lawrence, in refusing the right-of-way across the city and to a connection with the Pleasant Hill road, a consummation upon which the delivery of the bonds by the county of Shawnee, the city of Topeka, and the township of Tecumseh, amounting in the aggregate to $215,000, was contingent. That city, smarting under her defeat in plans to establish a line of railway to the south of Topeka, and thus cripple her commercial prospects, was in a fit mood to resort to this despicable means of preventing the connection. It was the 13th of October, a date within eighty days of that at which the road must be completed and operating, before the council could be induced to grant the right-of-way across the city, and then only by the payment of heavy damages for the wear and tear of their official conscience, in finding it for the public good that permission be granted at all.

Notwithstanding these many discouragements, the company worked on with all possible energy, and with many personal sacrifices. Negotiations for rails were not concluded till the 26th of October, but even then hopes were entertained that the road could be completed by the first of January. As the iron began to arrive at Kansas City, the relations of the road to that city began to be realized, and measures were taken for its extension down the river to that point. Kaw township, in Jackson county, Missouri, voting to subscribe $100,000 to its stock on the 14th of November. Still further financial difficulties arose between the contractor and his creditors, and cold weather coming on, it was plainly futile to expect a completion of the road on time. The company was in nowise dismayed, however. The directors were Topeka men who had labored long and hard, as well as at great personal sacrifice of means, to the chief end of promoting the city's welfare, and of saving her from a very threatening menace of her life as a commercial point, and they did not believe the public would abandon them in that hour of their discomfiture. They therefore went again to the city and to the county for a renewal of their contracts to subscribe to the stock of the road, only asking an extension of six months beyond the original stipulation in which to complete the road. An active opposition was raised by men who had not seen the necessity for the road at any time, who seldom do anything for the public themselves, or appreciate such acts in others, and who were not ashamed to rest their dishonest opposition upon the assumption that the company, having accomplished so much, would find means of completing the road sometime, though the community in whose behalf it had made its sacrifices, under a pledge of assistance, should refuse to extend for a few months the time in which the very important work should be accomplished.

The election upon this extension of time was set for the 28th of December, three days before the maturity of the contract, not three days after, as a man asks extension at bank. The efforts of the opposition were without ceasing, while the directors were resting too largely upon the magnanimity, not to say honesty, of their neighbors for support. As the only instance of bad faith on the part of this people, we regret to record the fact of the defeat of these renewal propositions—in the county, by a vote of 865 to 548; and in the city, by 664 to 663.

At this juncture, matters were very discouraging to the company. They had lost no degree of confidence in the importance of the road to Topeka, but otherwise; its necessity was daily becoming more apparent. It was deemed advisable, however, to let the enterprise rest until this necessity should be sufficiently apparent to the public to justify an expectation of fairness towards the company, at last.

A special cause of apprehension by the thoughtful men at Topeka at that time, was the building of the Lawrence and Carbondale road; an enterprise that Lawrence had pushed forward with all the energy she could, while placing every obstacle she could in the way of the construction of the Lawrence & Topeka road; the reasons for which may not be apparent to the reader, and he may wonder what were the causes of that vital struggle between Lawrence and Topeka. Let him know, then, that that struggle was for the whole vast benefits that flow from the location of the shops and general offices of the Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fé Railroad. Lawrence reasoned, and rightly, that that road must have connection with the St. Louis roads, and she believed that the Carbondale branch being built, the Atchison road would at once avail itself of that route to Lawrence, and *via* the Pleasant Hill line to the East; Lawrence becoming, instead of Topeka, the central point of that great company's business.

The Carbondale branch was in the same stage of construction in the spring of 1878 as the Lawrence & Topeka road. Both enterprises slept for a time. Indeed, by the autumn of that year, the financial condition of the country was such that railroad building had nearly ceased everywhere, and it was only by the most desperate efforts that any work in that line could be accomplished. Such a condition of desperation, however, was exactly the phase of the public exigencies, as between Lawrence and Topeka at that time. Lawrence, too much enfeebled already by public indebtedness, could expect nothing more from the public purse in aid of any enterprise. Topeka, though heavily loaded, was much better off in that respect than her old rival. Lawrence sought encouragement from many sources, and finally succeeded in getting the necessary materials for completing the Carbondale branch from the Union Pacific road, to which it might be useful in her coal supply. Topeka was watchful and anxious. The possibilities of even a division with Lawrence of the benefits, or of any part of the benefits, of the Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fé road, which from the first had been an enterprise peculiarly Topekan, was a constant thorn in the side, and humiliating to the last degree.

The affairs of the Lawrence & Topeka Company were a good deal complicated, and it was thought best that a new company be organized to conduct the enterprise. To that end, the Midland Railroad Company was chartered, on the 3d day of May, 1873, and it immediately succeeded to the franchise and properties of the Lawrence & Topeka Company.

As time passed, it became more and more apparent that Col. T. J. Peter, the general manager of the Atchison Company at the time, was using his influence against Topeka upon the all-engrossing subject, and in favor of the Carbondale branch scheme to Lawrence; and finally, on the 29th of June the Lawrence newspapers announced, in a vein of great hopefulness and rejoicing, together with a vein of sarcasm towards Topeka, that terms had been concluded at Boston between the Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fé Company and the representatives of the Carbondale road, whereby they would operate the Carbondale, upon its completion —an event at that date practically accomplished. In about two weeks from that time, the officers of the Midland Company again appealed to the county of Shawnee for aid, that time to the extent that aid had originally been pledged by the county and city—$200,000.

The election was set for the 20th of August, and notwithstanding the feverish anxiety in Topeka over the perilous situation with reference to the course of the Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fé Company, (for it was thought at Topeka as well as at Lawrence that, if that company leased the Carbondale branch, it would make it the main route for its eastern business,) the proposition was defeated, principally from the negative country vote. The country felt that the aid asked was too great, and besides this it was evident that Lawrence had exercised a considerable adverse influence in the southern townships of the county. The total vote cast was 3,184. The city gave a majority of 596 in favor of the proposition, and the country a majority of 1,204 against it.

This was regarded at Lawrence as the last nail in the coffin of the Lawrence & Topeka enterprise, and she made well-timed efforts to strengthen her relations with the Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fé, and wed that great road, through the bans of the Carbondale branch, permanently to herself. It required all the tact and persuasion of the directors and stockholders of the Atchison road residing at Topeka to prevent so damaging a consummation, and had it not been for the ray of hope kindled by the vote of the city of Topeka on the last proposition, it is probable they could not have averted such a calamity.

After a few weeks of rest and reflection, the directors again, and for the fourth time, went to the citizens of Topeka for relief. That time the request was made that the city should subscribe to $160,000 of the stock, and issue in payment its eight per cent. twenty-year bonds, conditioned that the road should be completed and in connection with the St. Louis & Lawrence road by the 1st of July, 1874. The election upon this proposition was set for the 4th of November, the day of the general election, and resulted in a vote of 1,310 in favor of the subscription to 329 against it. Four days after the mayor subscribed for the stock, and placed the bonds in escrow with the State Treasurer.

It was then late in the season, and as the grading had remained two years subject to impairment from washing, little more was done during the winter than to make preparations for placing the superstructure in the succeeding spring. Contracts for rails that had been made in 1873 had become void, and the work of negotiating for ties, bridges and iron had to be again entered upon. Considerable progress in that work had been made in 1873, and a portion of the rails received at Kansas City. On the 11th of April, 1874, the first rail was laid, at the corner of Washington avenue and Second street, in Topeka—the point of intersection with the Atchison road. There was not a large number of persons present at that interesting ceremony, but the men who for so long a time had labored and sacrificed for the cause were there, and in rejoicings and hilarity, with happiness and hope triumphant beaming on every countenance, amid embracings and shouts of congratulation, they nailed the rails in a manner that must have excited amazement in whomsoever, in subsequent years may have been called to remove them.

The subject of depot accommodations being under consideration, the city council, upon petition of the directors, granted right-of-way on First avenue westward to Kansas avenue, on the 13th of May. On the 24th of May, a carload of wheat was brought over the road from Lecompton to Topeka, the first fruits to Topeka from that source; and on the 26th the citizens of the capital that is, were afforded an opportunity, by free excursion, to visit —most of them for the first time—Lecompton, the capital that was.

On the 5th of June, Lawrence was shocked by the screech of the locomotive whistle and a train directly from Topeka over the Midland, and her cherished hopes of consummating arrangements with the Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fé Company materially cooled.

On the 26th of June arrangements were completed for the construction of the road from De Soto, a point on the line of the Pleasant Hill road, to Kansas City direct. Regular trains were run from Topeka to Kansas City over the Midland and connecting lines, *via* Olathe, after the 13th of July. On the 16th of September, trains commenced running to Pleasant Hill. The road from De Soto direct to Kansas City was completed at about that time, but trains continued to run by the way of Olathe to the end of the year.

The Midland road, as thus completed, was leased to the Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fé Company, on the 30th of June, 1875, for the period of ninety-nine years, and for the sum paid of $400,000, and the road, as thus constructed and leased, took the name of the Kansas City, Topeka & Western Railroad.

Topeka had struggled with other towns than Lawrence for supremacy from the day she was founded, the names even of some of them being now forgotten to the public, but with Lawrence she had a struggle always. The strife in this railroad matter may be regarded as an earnest of that struggle, continuous for twenty years. It is hoped it may be the last.

It would be injustice to the men who so long and bravely struggled and sacrificed in this enterprise not to give their names here. They were: C. K. Holliday, Jacob Safford, F. L. Crane, J. M. Spencer, E. Wilder, Joel Huntoon, D. L. Lakin and F. W. Giles. Mr. George B. Chapman was connected with the enterprise as contractor from the beginning to the end, and rendered invaluable services in keeping alive enthusiasm for the road, and in providing ways and means.

The $160,000 stock subscribed to the road was sold about the first of April, 1881, at an average price of fifty-four per cent.

As, after the lapse of ten years, we look back upon the enterprise, we see it to have been the most exhaustive fight that Topeka has made for commercial position, and the most beneficent in its results.

EVENTS OF THE CIVIL WAR.

ON Sunday evening, the 6th of September, 1863, a messenger arrived at Topeka from Gen. Ewing, in command of the Department of Missouri, bringing advices that Quantrill, with a body of a thousand men or more, was twenty miles south of Independence, Missouri, preparing for a raid upon Kansas towns. The destruction of Lawrence by this notorious brigand had occurred but two weeks before, and there was a good deal of alarm at this announcement. A public meeting was called to see what the town could do, and various propositions of defense were discussed, but no further action was taken than to advise every man to be prepared with arms and ammunition for immediate use, if necessary.

About the first of October, 1864, it became generally known in Kansas that Gen. Sterling Price, of the rebel army, was advancing with an army, variously estimated at from 5,000 to 15,000 men, from Arkansas into Missouri, and well-grounded apprehensions were entertained that he would make his way, all too easily, through that State and into Kansas.

On the 8th of October, Gov. Carney issued orders calling out the militia of the State, and two days after Maj. Gen. Curtis, then in command of the Department of Kansas, proclaimed martial law throughout his department, and ordered every man between the ages of eighteen and sixty years to arms and to the border.

The militia of Shawnee county, constituting the Second Regiment Kansas State Militia, immediately mustered at Topeka, and on the morning of the 12th, under command of Col. George W. Veale, moved for the eastern border of the State. Ten days after the Kansas militia engaged the forces of Gen. Price, on Big Blue creek, six miles east of Kansas City.

Col. Veale's command had 561 men, under Captains Daniel H. Horne, A. J. Huntoon, J. B. Hannum, Sterling B. Miles, John H. Banks, James Thompson, Harvey McCaslin, William Disney, J. B. Stuart, D. B. Burdick and J. W. Mossman, and a battery of two pieces, commanded by Capt. Ross Burns.

As there was a considerable number of men in the county who had not arrived in Topeka in season to go out with Col. Veale's command on the morning of the 12th, Andrew Stark, major of the Second Regiment, was ordered to remain in command of the post at Topeka, and to organize there such men as might subsequently come in, together with certain men then detailed from the regiment, into a home battalion. In accordance with this order, there were organized at Topeka one company of militia, under command of Capt. F. W.

Giles, of sixty-four men; one company of cavalry, under Capt. L. Craigue Shields, of sixty-nine men; one company of exempts, under Capt. H. S. Gale, of seventy-two men; one company of colored recruits, of sixty-five men, under Capt. Thos. Archer, and one section of battery, under Lieut. Tobias Billings, with one gun and twenty-two men. Also at Mill Creek, a company of infantry, under Capt. Joseph Trew, and a company of cavalry, under Capt. Edward Krappe.

This home battalion, as it is known in the Adjutant General's report of 1864, was on duty from the 12th to the 26th of October, when last mustered.

A stockade was erected at the intersection of Kansas and Sixth avenues, of circular form, constructed of cottonwood timbers, standing well in the ground, and ten feet high.

Trenches were cut near the intersection of Sixth avenue and Jefferson street, and also near the intersection of Eighth avenue and Madison street. For the period of two weeks, during which these men were under arms, they did the best they could to make of themselves soldiers; and to realize their anxiety in this regard, it should be remembered that it was the popular impression that if the rebel army succeeded against the force that had gone to the border to oppose it, that army would be at once broken into detachments, for raiding upon the towns of Kansas, as the most effectual method to punish that people who, in the estimation of the rebels, were beyond all others to be blamed for the war.

The results of the engagement at the Blue, on the 22d, in a confused statement, leaving the impression of disastrous defeat to the Union forces, reached Topeka on the succeeding forenoon — Sunday, Oct. 23; and from that hour the citizens of Topeka were in constant expectation of seeing some party of rebel raiders approach the city from the east or south. The enrolled forces that, as militia and volunteers, had placed themselves subject to the orders of Maj. Stark, were about 350, rank and file. It was the reasonable expectation of every family in the city, when these men, with accoutrements adjusted, and arms loaded, took their places by the trenches, as the shades of that Sunday evening enveloped the town, that ere the rising of another sun they would fare the fate that had come upon Lawrence, at the hands of Quantrill and his murderers and incendiary band in the previous year, or be saved from it by the efforts of this squad of untrained and untried soldiery.

At about the hour of nine, on Monday morning, came tidings from the scene of battle, that Gen. Price had moved southward with his whole army, and all apprehensions of a raid upon Topeka were dispelled.

During the period of the war, Shawnee county contributed largely of her men to the armies of the nation, never falling behind her associate counties, nor faltering in works of patriotism, nor did Kansas with her associate States. And what Shawnee county did for the cause of the nation, she did ungrudgingly and without complaint. The scenes of battle were generally so far from her borders that the dead from Shawnee were not returned to her. Scenes of patriotism and of grief fill the mind as we write, but which can have no place in this narrative. It is not well to pass unnoticed, however, the going out from Topeka, on the morning of the 12th of October, 1864, of Shawnee's regiment to do battle with the invading army of Gen. Price.

Those who witnessed and those who took part in the scenes of the untrained militia, as it formed on Sixth avenue and moved out to the east, in its varied equipage, and followed by its incongruous huddle of farm wagons and teams, in haste to be a military train, know the spirit in which men leave their families and go into battle.

From the dearly-bought victory at Big Blue, on the 22d, there were returned for rights of honor and sepulture the bodies of—

HARVEY G. YOUNG,
McCLURE MARTIN,
NICHOLAS BROWN,
GEORGE GINNOLD,
CHARLES H. BUDD,
LEAR SELKIN,
R. J. BOLLES,
JAMES P. ALVERSON,
D. DRAKE,
SAMUEL ALLEN,
ROBERT McNOUN,
ALBERT CHAPMAN,
HIRAM C. COVILL,
DANIEL HANDLEY,
W. P. ROBERTS.

Ground was specially set apart in the cemetery, by the generosity of its proprietor, and on the 10th of December were transferred to it, from temporary burial near Wyandotte, the bodies of these patriot dead.

It was an occasion of gloom and lamentation, such as has at no other time rested upon the people of Shawnee county. Upon that ground, sacred in the memory of all who esteem the character that can do sacrifice for another, it is yet the mournful pleasure of our people to annually gather the garlands of May, and refresh their memories of the fallen heroes.

The stockade that had been erected at the intersection of Sixth and Kansas avenues was not removed till five or six years afterwards.

THE GRASSHOPPER PLAGUE.

THE year 1874 will long be remembered in Kansas on account of the remarkable incursion of the Rocky Mountain locusts that year. The habitat of this variety of locusts in America is along the eastern base of the Rocky Mountains, from Texas, through Colorado, Wyoming and Montana.

There are historical notions of its having swarmed over the great plains prior to their settlement by white men, and it is probable such events had occurred for unknown ages, though the special causes of its swarming down upon the plains are unknown.

There is familiar talk of seventeen-year locusts and of ten-year locusts, by inference assuming that there exists a periodicity in the going forth from their mountain habitat of this pest, but observations in Kansas for more than thirty years fail to confirm such a theory.

The year 1874 opened propitious as usual for the husbandman in Kansas, having sufficient rains down to the first of July, but from that time a general drouth prevailed throughout the trans-Mississippi States, not only, but throughout the Atlantic, interior and New England States as well. It was a year in the country at large of extreme heat and cold, of damage by floods and drouths, of devastations by locusts, chinch bugs and cut-worms. The marked prosperity in agriculture had called widespread attention to Kansas, and tens of thousands of families had broken the sward and that spring sown and planted for the first time upon these productive plains, and for the most part they were composed of persons of quite limited means, who were dependent upon the year's products for the year's subsistence.

The locusts first alighted, according to reports obtained by the State Board of Agriculture, on the 1st of July, in Ellsworth county, and during that month in Saline, Decatur, Barton, and two or three other counties, but through the month of August they continued like storms of rain to almost deluge the land, and scarcely a county in the State escaped their ravages.

It would tax the powers of an abler writer than this to clearly portray the changes that ensued. The tree yesterday laden with its heavy drapery of green, to-day denuded. The peach, and pear and apple trees, with luscious fruitage, rejoicing the beholder, to-day leafless, fruitless, withered as the fig tree accursed. Gardens with lawns and shrubbery and flowers, now lifeless, seared, and fallen to decay. The cottage embowered, now exposed and blistered by the burning heat of the summer sun. The farmer's fields of ripening grain—his only promise, his only hope—now blackened by the countless myriads of the all-devouring plague—Egypt's dread. A summer scene, in an hour, as it were, transformed to one of winter. To see it, only is it possible to realize it.

There was alarm throughout the State, but especially in those districts of the west but recently settled, and the inquiry went out from every quarter, "What shall be done?" There was a general disinclination to ask aid from beyond the borders of the State, for it was well known that there was an abundance in the State for all if any means could be devised for reaching it. Indeed, any of the organized counties, acting in their public capacity, could have borrowed money to any needed extent, and there were many persons who thought they should do so. But the feeling generally prevailed that the State, in its sovereign capacity, should make provision for such as the great calamity had rendered unable to make provision for themselves.

Under these circumstances, Gov. Osborn issued his proclamation calling the Legislature in special session. The Legislature convened on the 15th of September, and the Governor said, in his message addressed to them on that occasion, that he had taken measures, through the agency of the State Board of Agriculture, as well as by numerous inquiries directly from the executive office, to learn the true situation, and that while his inquiries showed that the State as a whole had an abundance of breadstuffs—much more than would be needed in the State to feed all the people—that that portion of the State which had been almost entirely populated during the previous eighteen months would suffer for the want of the necessaries of life, unless provision was made for its relief; that from information then in his possession, it appeared that the section of the State for which relief should be provided by legislation, was confined to the counties west of the sixth principal meridian. Of these, the greatest destitution seemed to prevail in the extreme northwest, instancing Norton, Phillips, Rooks, Osborne and Smith counties, and the unorganized counties lying west, where immediate aid seemed necessary.

The number of persons who would require more or less aid, as estimated in the reports received, would not, it was thought, exceed 15,000, and many of these would require but little assistance. The greatest want seemed to be of small grain, whereby those destitute people could be subsisted until another crop could be raised. It was thought there was sufficient meat in the counties named to supply the demands of consumption. The Governor estimated the quantity necessary for the subsistence of these 15,000 persons at 120,000 bushels, which could be delivered to them at about $1.00 a bushel, for wheat. Many of the people in those counties would require clothing, but that want could probably be supplied through the agency of societies in the older counties, without cost to the State.

The sentiment of the people was entirely in favor of providing for the emergency, and for doing so at home. The day had gone by when there was need to look to others for assistance.

Various propositions were raised and discussed, and finally a law passed authorizing the issue of $73,000 of State relief bonds, running twenty years, and bearing seven per cent. interest; and also a law authorizing nineteen specifically named counties to issue their bonds in specific sums, in no case exceeding $5,000, of like tenor and effect with the State bonds, and from the proceeds of the State bonds the Treasurer might purchase the county bonds. The Board of Commissioners of the Permanent School Fund was authorized to purchase the State bonds, and by means of these several provisions funds were at once available for relief; and in the opinion of the author, at this day, ample relief for any necessities that existed.

From the State fund direct donations were made to three newly organized and sparsely settled counties, as follows: To Rush county, $1,000; to Decator county, $1,000, and to Ness county, $500. It was a strange sequel to that wise and beneficent legislation, that only two of the nineteen counties so proffered loans from the State treasury, to relieve the supposed necessities of their people, availed themselves of the privilege—Norton and Reno, each in the sum of $5,000. Still rumors of widespread destitution and want were the theme of local newspapers, and excitement ran higher and higher daily. It was apparent that an indiscriminate and desultory system of begging would be resorted to, and as a consequence an irreparable injury to the moral sentiment of our people, as well as disgrace to the State, would ensue.

To avert these calamitous results, as far as might be, and at the same time to establish a reliable and responsible agency through which supplies might be received and intelligently distributed, a public meeting of citizens was called at Topeka, on the evening of Nov. 19, 1874, and an organization effected, under the style of the "Kansas Central Relief Committee."

The committee on the succeeding day issued the following address, which, on account of its correct appreciation and truthful statement of the situation, as fully demonstrated by subsequent events, we give in full:

To the Citizens of Kansas and the People of the Eastern States:

The Kansas Central Relief Committee is organized chiefly to secure aid within our own State for those of our citizens who are victims of the grasshopper plague. In order to the more successful discharge of their duty, the committee issue this address, directed specially to the residents of Eastern Kansas, and also to our friends in the Eastern States, from whom communications are daily received requesting authentic information as to our condition.

The calamitous destruction of crops, which will make the year 1874 memorable in the history of the Northwest, has not spared the State of Kansas. Although the reports which have been widely circulated over the country grossly exaggerate the amount of destitution in Kansas, yet information received through the State Board of Agriculture and from other reliable sources clearly shows that the winter which has now fairly set in finds many people in our State, especially newly-arrived pioneers in the frontier counties, destitute not only of fuel and suitable clothing for winter use, but also of adequate means for the subsistence of man and beast.

Appreciating the extent of the disaster which had befallen our people, and having full faith in the ability of the State to provide for its own destitute, the Governor convened the Legislature in extra session in September. The Legislature held, that under the constitution it had not the power to make appropriations adequate to the emergency, directly from the treasury. It did, however, authorize certain frontier counties to issue their own bonds in aid of the necessities of their citizens. For various reasons not necessary here to enumerate, the legislative action has failed to relieve the wants of the people.

The destitution is not general, but limited. It is mainly confined to the frontier counties, in which the growing crops were destroyed by the grasshoppers in the months of July and August. In the older counties there is abundance to meet the wants of the people, but if there are deficiences as to some crops, the people have means to procure needed supplies from abroad. With the exception of the frontier counties, into which the last two or three years have poured an unprecedented tide of enterprising and worthy settlers of very limited means, the proportion of people not able to provide for themselves is as small in Kansas as it is in any State in the Union.

The limits assigned to this address do not allow us to go into details. It is sufficient to say that many persons in the frontier counties are greatly in need of grain, provision and clothing—and this need will continue throughout the winter, and until May or June of next year, including the demand for grain for seed and for support of work animals, in putting in crops.

Even in these frontier counties, the lack of supplies exists chiefly among the immigrants who have come into the State within the last year or so, and who had no dependence for a living but the sod crops which the grasshoppers destroyed. Strictly speaking, a large number of the destitute are hardly citizens of Kansas at all. They have but just arrived, with very slight resources, from States east of Kansas. In our judgment, it is the duty of those who live in the older portions of the State to see to it that even the immigrant of yesterday, having pushed on to the border with the honest purpose of making a home for himself and his family, shall not lack the necessaries of life. Such a course is dictated equally by justice, by charity, and by sound policy.

We are sure that the people of the older and wealthier portions of the State are both able and willing to render assistance to their needy neighbors. One main purpose of the establishment of this committee is to furnish a channel through which churches and other local organizations and societies in this State may send their contributions to those who are entitled to receive them. We earnestly appeal to our own people to take immediate and efficient measures to furnish help to their fellow-citizens who are sufferers, not from any fault of theirs, but through unavoidable calamity. The needs of the sufferers are pressing, and the early arrival of winter forbids delay in efforts for their relief.

We learn that in various parts of the East individuals are soliciting aid for sufferers in this State. We have sufficient proof that in some cases these solicitors are unprincipled persons, that they are actuated by selfish motives, and that they are entirely unworthy of confidence.

We but discharge an important duty, devolved upon us by our appointment, when we warn our friends in the East against placing their benefactions in the hands of unauthorized, irresponsible and mercenary parties.

If there are those outside of this State who desire to aid us in supplying the wants of our hardy, industrious, but now unfortunate, pioneers—(and generous, voluntary proffers of such aid are constantly being sent to us)—this committee affords them a medium through which their contributions may be judiciously applied to the end proposed by the donors and fully accounted for.

All persons now engaged, or proposing to engage, in soliciting contributions in this State or beyond it, upon satisfying this committee of their fitness for said service, will be recommended to the executive department of the State for indorsement. Such indorsement made by the Governor of the State will be a guaranty of the responsibility of the party to whom it is granted, and the lack of said indorsement in any case should not be overlooked by those to whom application may be made.

Whatever contributions of money or supplies may be sent to this committee will be promptly and judiciously distributed among the needy.

Railroads, probably without exception, will forward relief freight free of charges, if such freight is shipped to the care of this committee.

Individuals or local committees desiring more specific information concerning matters connected with the relief of our people, should address directly the secretary of the committee, and remittances of funds should be made to the treasurer, at Topeka.

With emphasis we assert, that our suffering people are not wanting in enterprise nor courage, nor in any of the elements of true manhood. The uncomplaining patience with which even women and children are enduring the misfortunes that have fallen upon them is nothing short of heroic. Our people have not lost faith in themselves nor in the resources and prospects of the State in which they live, nor in Him without whom not a sparrow falls to the ground.

In their behalf, we confidently appeal to the liberality of those who count it a privilege to minister to the wants of the suffering, especially among their own countrymen, their own kindred.

(SIGNED) E. S. STOVER, Lieut. Governor, *Chairman*,
HENRY KING, Editor *The Commonwealth*, *Secretary*,
F. W. GILES, Pres't Topeka Nat'l Bank, *Treasurer*,
JOHN FRASER, State Superintendent Schools,
WM. SIMS, Overseer State Grange,
ALFRED GRAY, Sec'y State Agricultural Society,
REV. F. S. MCCABE, D. D., Presbyterian Pastor,
O. T. WELCH, Land and Insurance Agent,
S. T. KELSEY, State Board of Agriculture,
A. L. VOORHEES, Russell County,
REV. W. C. TENNEY, Douglas County,
C. H. LEBOLD, Banker, Dickinson County,
HON. E. N. MORRILL, Brown County,
HON. J. H. EDWARDS, Ellis County,
HON. THOMAS MURPHY, Mayor of Atchison,
G. A. THOMPSON, Harvey County,
HON. M. M. MURDOCK, Sedgwick County,
GEN. C. W. BLAIR, Bourbon County,
COL. P. B. PLUMB, Lyon County,
Committee.

These circulars were extensively distributed in the older-settled counties, and in the eastern States. On the 30th of November the first response was received, in the form of a package of clothing contributed by children in a public school at Shelbyville, Ohio, and immediately followed a stream of supplies in great variety, that continued in daily increasing volume. That portion of the committee upon whom rested the labor and the responsibility of receiving, caring for and distributing the contributions were forced to immediately abandon their own legitimate business and devote their time to this work of charity. Provision was made with most of the railroads, not only within, but in many instances without the State, and extending from Boston to San Francisco, to carry supplies shipped to and by the committee free of charge. The commercial value of services in that way contributed by the railroads is not known, but it must have amounted to a very large sum. Warerooms were rented to store the supplies till they could be designated and shipped to districts where they were supposed to be most appropriate—a task attended with great difficulty on account of uncertainty as to the contents of the boxes, bales, or barrels, coming often unattended by letters of advice as to their contents. Hundreds of these were forwarded in unbroken packages as they were received. The orders of the sub-committee of distribution—"Four boxes and seven barrels to Reno," "A sack of beans and a barrel of pork to Rice"—were indices to daily occurrences.

The writer and the Rev. Dr. F. S. McCabe sat at their table in private apartments for more than two months, from early morning, till late at night sometimes, listening to the plaints and importunities of suppliants, and giving answers, yes or no, in many cases when seemingly it meant a life saved, or lost by starvation.

Many cases on which it were very difficult to give a satisfactory answer were presented, and the emotions of sympathy and a sense of justice, were often at war in the hearts of those men. Sometimes when they had given an adverse decision to an applicant, for himself or his neighbors, and he had left the rooms, they would make an order unknown to him, for a sack of flour or some other articles of prime necessity to be placed in his wagon.

At one time towards spring, a little playful rivalry arose between contributors in Boston and San Francisco, over the magnitude of their charities, and pleasant telegrams were exchanged between officers of the committee and friends in those localities in regard to the subject. But San Francisco quickly put a stop to these pleasantries by contributing a whole train load of barley.

The committee kept a statement of its receipts of supplies, and of to whom they were delivered, and also of the money received and disbursed, and at the close of its labors, by a request of Gov. Osborn, made a detailed report to him, which he laid before the Legislature, with request that it be published, and this was done in a pamphlet of fifty pages, for general distribution to contributors. But one case came to the knowledge of the committee, requiring an explanation to the donor as to the manner of its use.

There were received by the committee, 124½ car loads; 12,160 boxes, barrels and other packages of supplies; $20,713.65 in money. The car loads and packages were estimated to be of the value of $110,600—making an aggregate of $131,313.65 received and distributed by the committee between the date of its organization—the 19th of November, and the 25th of the succeeding January. The expenses for rent of warehouses, employés, freights and other incidental expenses were, $1,136.11.

In addition to the supplies and money contributed through the committee, there was a large amount contributed directly to the county commissioners and to individuals, of which we can make no estimate, and besides there was contributed clothing by the United States Government, and delivered by army officers from Forts Larned, Dodge and Hayes, namely: 4,541 woolen blankets; 1,834 great coats; 131 sack coats, lined; 131 trousers, and 4,468 pairs of boots.

The locusts had honeycombed the earth in the deposit of their eggs in the fall of 1874, and the most intense anxiety was felt on account of conditions that might prevail in 1875, but the farmers commenced seeding in the spring as usual, reliant that "seed time and harvest" should come. Seed time was upon them, and with it came a crop of young "hoppers," true in instinct to their sires, and more abundant even than they had been. As the crops grew, they grew, doing no damage to the tender shoots and blades for a few weeks, but then attacking them with all the voracity of their kind. Many devices were resorted to by the desperate farmers to destroy them, the most effectual being to sweep over the fields with a light scraper, and a trough of kerosene oil lying behind it; as the little 'hoppers arose they fell back (yet unable to fly) into the oil and quickly perished. Little good was accomplished in this or other ways, however, and scarcely anything was saved till the locusts had passed the adolescent state, which occurred from the first to the last of June, and painful apprehensions pervaded the whole community. But at length their wings were grown; they could not endure the rains and the humid atmosphere, and they had to move on. Omnipotence had ordered their coming, and Omnipotence ordered their going. Their departure was generally to the southwest and to the west, where a dryer atmosphere then prevailed, which they seemed instinctively to know.

It was in most localities too late for wheat sowing, and the fall wheat had been destroyed. The only recourse was to plant corn and other crops that required but a short time to mature. In some instances corn was planted as late as the first of July. At the usual time when frosts came on in the autumn, much of the corn was yet in the milk, and yet, almost as a miracle, the frosts were delayed and the crops matured.

There were 407,000 more acres of corn in Kansas that year than in any previous one, and the aggregate yield was 27 per cent. greater than in any previous year. Extraordinary efforts were made, and on the whole Kansas enjoyed, in 1875, one of the most remarkable returns for her industries of any year in her history to this day. Within three months from the time of eating the bread of charity, the farmers in some instances were in anger complaining because the railroads had not sufficient rolling stock to haul away their surplus products to a market.

THE CITY LIBRARY.

ON the 12th day of November, 1870, a small number of ladies first inaugurated the measure of a public reading room and library in Topeka. The officers of that organization, styled the Ladies' Library Association, were: Mrs. N. C. McFarland, president; Mrs. J. M. Spencer, vice president; Mrs. E. J. Steele, Mrs. J. A. Safford, and Mrs. T. L. King, secretaries.

They interested the public in the enterprise, and the association soon attained to the number of seventy members, who, by rule, imposed upon themselves an annual tax of $3.00, to be used in the purchase of books. They provided a small bookcase, and were freely permitted space for their library, and to transact business, in a dry goods store at No. 196 Kansas avenue, conducted by Messrs. Keith and Myers.

On the 20th of January, 1872, articles of incorporation were filed, the incorporators being Mrs. Eliza B. Clarkson, Mrs. Ellen W. Tweeddale, Mrs. W. S. Baker, Mrs. Lizzie P. Huntoon, Mrs. E. S. Sheldon, Mrs. S. D. McDonald, Mrs. O. T. Welch, Mrs. T. L. King and Mrs. J. S. Higgins.

At this time the institution took the name of the

Topeka Library Association. It possessed about 250 volumes, and its privileges were open to both sexes. Mrs. William Tweeddale was elected president, and served in that capacity till 1875.

After the incorporation, the library was reopened in rooms provided for it in the second story of a building at No. 211 Kansas avenue, where it remained till the 10th of September, 1874. At that time it was removed to the second story of a building at the northeast corner of Kansas avenue and Seventh street, where it had much better rooms than at any time before, and sufficient reading-room space.

The revenues of the library were derived from the tax of $3.00 a year for membership, social entertainments and occasional donations; and these were generally sufficiently large to enable the directors to pay rent, services of librarian and other contingent expenses, and from the surplus to make frequent additions to their stock of books.

In January, 1875, it had 1,766 volumes, and a weekly issue of 100 books. At that time Mr. E. Wilder was elected president, and by reëlections from year to year he has continued to perform the functions of that office to the present time. At the beginning of the year 1877, the number of books had increased to 2,897.

A desire had often been expressed by the directors and by the public, that the library should be made free, and to that end an appeal was made to a few liberally-disposed individuals to contribute money for that purpose, which resulted in a fund sufficient to defray the expenses for the period of seven months. The beneficent effects of this measure were very marked, for while the average monthly issue of books had been so large as 597, under the system of imposing a slight stipend for the privileges of the library, under the free system the average monthly issue at once rose to 2,159.

The directory, supported by the popular sentiment, then made an appeal to the city council to bear the expenses of the library to the extent of $100 a month, and this appeal was acceded to, to the end that the privileges of the institution might remain free to all persons resident at Topeka, and thereafter to the present time, with an exception of a few months in 1879, this subsidy by the city has been continued. In 1881 it was raised to $1,500 a year, in 1882 to $1,800 a year, in 1883 to $2,000 a year, and in 1884 to $2,500 per annum.

In 1880 the library had gained such magnitude, and had become so thoroughly engrafted as a city institution, that, having in view its wonderful career in the past, and the brilliant prospect of its future, the directory determined to make an effort for an edifice of its own, commensurate in magnitude and in architectural design and finish to the highly civilizing work it was performing. President Wilder, treasurer of the Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fé Railroad Company at the time, bethought himself of the very fortunate expedient of making an appeal to that company, and also to the Union Pacific Railroad Company, for assistance in this very laudable undertaking. Cordially supported by General Manager W. B. Strong and by President T. Jefferson Coolidge, of the first-named company, President Sidney Dillon of the Union Pacific Company acquiesced in the proposition of assistance to the library association, not solely as a benefice to the public library, nor yet to it and the city of Topeka, but basing their support largely upon the grounds of the very great mutual advantages reciprocally enjoyed between them and the State of Kansas, and designing that the library edifice, so directly the fruit of their generosity, shall be regarded as a memorial of their beneficent relations, and as a seal of perpetual friendship in the future. The sum of their contributions was $25,000, one-half from each company.

When the State Legislature convened in January, 1881, the wants of the library and the action of the railroad companies was laid before it, and permission asked of the privilege of a small portion of the grounds of the State House square, on which to erect the library building, and that body, at once appreciating the sentiment manifested by the railroad companies, and responsive to their acts of generosity and good feeling, granted, by an act approved the 5th day of March, perpetual rights of occupancy to a space not exceeding 200 feet square, in the northeast corner of those grounds, for the purpose desired, conditioned that the building should be fire-proof and of fitting character, and conditioned also that the Governor of the State, the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court and the Speaker of the House of Representatives should be *ex officio* members of the board of directors of the library association, and that the library should be free to all citizens of the State, thus imparting somewhat of State characteristics to the institution.

The building was completed at an expense of $44,000, the deficit of means being loaned by citizens of Topeka, and by due ceremonials dedicated to its legitimate uses, on the 20th of April, 1882. Other contributions than those named have been made by Jas. D. Burr, C. W. Potwin and John R. Mulvane, of Topeka, and by C. C. Wheeler, of Chicago, each in the sum of $500; by many others in smaller sums; and a piano, by Mr. Barney Lantry.

The institution is to some extent a gallery of art, and the directors design to have established an art school in connection with it. The hall is very completely adapted to dramatic plays, concerts and lectures, and the revenue derived from its use in this direction is equal to the payment of interest on the existing indebtedness. The number of books now in the library is over 5,700.

THE BRIDGE SHOPS.

THE iron superstructure of the bridge over the river, at Topeka, was the work of a company operating at Cleveland, O., of which Mr. Zenas King was at the head. Mr. King became interested with parties at Topeka in the establishment of bridge works at Iola, in Kansas, but the works had hardly got into operation before it was desired by the parties interested to transfer them to Topeka, and on the 1st of July, 1872, a petition was presented to the city council, asking that the proposition of voting aid to the bridge company in the sum of $100,000, if it would establish its works, of a given magnitude, in this city, be submitted to vote of the citizens.

Great mistrust was entertained by citizens as to the ability of the company to carry out in good faith its proposition, even if the aid asked for was granted. The council hesitated, and meetings of citizens were held to consider the subject. A citizens' committee was appointed to investigate the standing of the company, and act in an advisory capacity with the city council. It found proof of the company's ability justifying a report favoring the submission of the question of aid, and the council duly acted to that end, but a strong opposition to the measure was at once apparent, and continued to the day of the election. The opposition took the ground that the city was already carrying as large an indebtedness as it could; and further, that it would be establishing a very dangerous precedent in principle—that of aiding private corporations. It was also urged that the company was irresponsible, and could not carry out its promises. The question was mooted, too, that the bonds of the city would be worthless if issued, upon the grounds of unconstitutionality. The contest was very animated, and brought out a vote of 1,583—the largest ever polled to that date—and resulted in favor of the aid, by only 227 votes. It is probable that, but for the belief that the bonds, if issued, could not be held by the courts a legal indebtedness of the city, the proposition would have been defeated.

The result being known, the bridge company acted with great vigor. The question of location had first to be considered. Considerable effort was made to have the location on the north side, but it was finally determined in favor of grounds in Crane's addition, near the intersection of Washington avenue and Crane street, where seven acres of ground were secured on specially favorable terms, from Dr. F. L. Crane. There was considerable talk of securing an order of court restraining the mayor from signing and issuing the bonds, but upon the filing of a bond by the bridge company, signed by forty citizens, qualifying to an aggregate wealth of $1,121,000, the bonds of the city were issued. A large force was employed in the erection of the shops, which covered some three acres in extent, so that the buildings were completed and sufficient machinery put up to enable the company to commence business in the ensuing winter. The company secured possession of the bonds, and made them available, but it was from the first under financial embarrassment, and after struggling through a period of about a year finally succumbed to the demands of its creditors, and ceased operations. It had built bridges at Wamego, Wyandotte, Kansas City, and other localities, and had abundant work offered. The works remained unoccupied, much of the machinery was removed to satisfy demands of creditors, and the buildings left to despoliation and decay; till finally, at the close of July, 1878, they were purchased by the A. T. & S. F. R. R., and became a scene of activity and a source of benefit to Topeka of almost incalculable extent. A tax was levied to pay the interest upon the bridge bonds in 1873, though some refused to pay it upon grounds of its illegality, and before the next year's taxes were demanded the bonds that had been previously issued by the city of Iola upon the same principle, and to the same company, had been declared void by the Supreme Court of the United States, and no further action with reference to paying either interest or principal of the bonds was had.

THE ROLLING MILLS.

IN the early days of February, 1873, the subject of building shops for rolling railroad rails was brought to the attention of the people by Mr. Chapman, contractor for building the Lawrence & Topeka Railway. It was well known that the business had been very profitable in the United States for some years previous, and it was thought that Topeka was a favorable locality for such business.

It was represented that such shops would employ some hundreds of men, and that, in view of the large expense incident to establishing the works, and the great advantages that would result to Topeka, the city could well afford to aid the enterprise as she had done with the bridge shops.

A corporation, under the style of "The Topeka Iron and Steel Company," was organized, and stock to the amount of some $75,000 subscribed. A petition was placed before the city council, asking aid to the enterprise by the city, in the sum of $150,000, and ere the ides of April were past the bonded indebtedness of the city was increased in that sum, for the benefit of the Topeka Iron and Steel Company, and the bonds placed in escrow with the State Treasurer, as provided by law.

Great zeal was manifested in the prosecution of the enterprise, so that by the time the bonds had been issued, machinery was in process of construction in Connecticut and St. Louis, the location, amid some strife over the subject, decided in favor of the north side of the river, and everything pertaining to the scheme seemed in the most prosperous way. On the 11th of May, the contract for erecting necessary buildings was signed, and the work soon after commenced.

In a very few weeks after, the case at law pending between the King Wrought-Iron Bridge Co. and the city of Iola, in which the validity of the bonds issued by that city to said company was in issue, was decided adversely to their validity. This was a chilling circumstance to enterprises of the nature of the rolling mills and the bridge shops at Topeka, for the subsidies voted by Topeka to these several enterprises rested upon the same principles of law as in the Iola case. However, as the Iola case was to be taken immediately to the Supreme Court of the United States by one of Topeka's most eminent lawyers, who was sanguine of his ability to procure a reversal of the decision, sufficient warmth was kept up in the Topeka Iron and Steel Company to continue, amid some difficulties, the work of erecting the building and placing the requisite machinery.

As the works approached completion, in the fall, the great failure of the Northern Pacific Railroad Company occurred, and the consequent collapse in thousands of great railroad and manufacturing enterprises; matters looked dark for the Topeka Iron and Steel Company, and the work dragged heavily.

By the terms of issue, the city subsidy bonds were not to be delivered unless the shops should be in actual operation in one year from the date of their issue. It was with difficulty that their completion could be accomplished; but by dint of some extra pressing of those conditions of machinery actually necessary to the making of rails, to a neglect of other conditions necessary to a successful continuance of the business, the fires were actually lighted, the great engine moved, and the first rail produced in Kansas, or west of the Mississippi river, was made on the 24th day of April, 1874. Towards the close of May, the works were in fair condition, and for a few weeks a regular business was prosecuted; but the railroads everywhere by this time had ceased buying rails, and the whole business of railroad building had ceased in the country. And thus, what had been but a year before commenced under really very favorable circumstances, was necessarily abandoned, and all work suspended till the tide of prosperity should again set in upon the railroad interests, in common with many other industries of the country. The bond case that determined the fate of not only the rolling mills and the bridge shops at Topeka, but, of similar enterprises all across the country, from Maine to California, was in due time decided adversely to the validity of the bonds by the Supreme Court, and the corporators and stockholders of the Topeka Iron and Steel Company received little reward for money and time expended, but the consciousness of having attempted a good thing for Topeka. The city recovered its bonds and destroyed them, in 1874.

The fires were extinguished, in the general depression of business, and the mill remained out of use till the summer of 1880, when it was purchased by the Kansas Pacific Railroad, and thereafter kept in active operation till destroyed by fire on the evening of April 7, 1881. Upon the site of the rolling mill now stands a grain elevator of 100,000 bushels capacity.

THE CHURCHES.

THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH.

THE history of this church is virtually contemporary with the settlement of Topeka. Rev. S. Y. Lum had been commissioned in August, 1854, to labor as a Congregational missionary in the Territory of Kansas. He had come to Lawrence, then almost the only settlement, where he had organized a church, and from whence he writes as follows:

> Since my last communication I have made an exploring tour up the river. From what I saw I am disposed to think that there are perhaps two localities that will soon prove worthy the notice of your society; in fact one of them may need a man immediately. This place is on the Kansas river, about twenty-five miles from Lawrence. From present appearces, the locality of which I am speaking is destined to be the second city in this part of the Territory. I intend to go there as soon as possible, and, if I can make the necessary arrangements, will preach there next Sunday.

The Rev. Mr. Lum preached several times in Topeka during the winter of 1854–5, the first sermon delivered in Topeka having been by him, at the house of Mr. A. A. Ward, a little to the northwest of the settlers' cabin.

On that or some subsequent visit of the winter, the writer invited Mr. Lum to his lodgings for the night. His apartments were on what now constitutes the southeast corner of Sixth avenue and Madison street. A bit of prairie had been fenced off there and roofed over with "shakes," and amply lighted without the expense of windows. At that time two cottonwood planks had been brought from Lawrence—the first sawed lumber in Topeka. One of them had been secured by the lord of the mansion—C. K. Holliday—and had been placed for a bed, upon poles some three or four feet from the ground. The plank was more than a foot wide, and of sufficient length for two to lie upon. There was neither bed nor bedding more than this. The writer was accorded the honorable position of head to the east, while the Rev. Mr. Lum's head was to the west. It was a bitter cold night, but no attempt whatever was made to warm the apartments—neither by steam or otherwise. We cannot say how long, if indeed at all, they had been sleeping, when the eastern end of the substructure gave way, and the old saying, that sin is heavier than righteousness, was demonstrated by the east end of the plank going down a foot or two, and the twain were balancing on a single support—one head down, the other up, at an angle of twenty degrees or more. A discussion was had over the situation, and the conclusion reached that it was better to endure the ills we had than to flee to those that possibly might be worse; and so the night was passed. It snowed, and the wind blew strongly, and the writer and the preacher were white, as the prairie without, when the morning came to their relief.

The First Congregational Church of Topeka had its origin Oct. 14, 1855, in the cabin of Mr. James Cowles, where a handful of Christians had gathered from the scattered settlement to consult for the religious interests of the new town. It was organized as an anti-slavery church, (the Territory passing at that time through the stormy period of its history known as the "border ruffian" excitement,) but some years subsequently, as the slavery agitation subsided, that distinctive appellation was dropped. The turbulence of those days was not favorable to spiritual or outward church progress, but the men who entered into the new organization were of staunch purpose and full of faith, and the church had a steady growth.

The first deacons were H. W. Farnsworth and James Cowles. The first trustees were Milton C. Dickey, John Ritchie and H. P. Waters. Rev. Paul Shepherd, Rev. S. Y. Lum and Rev. Jonathan Copeland preached occasionally to the infant church, whenever opportunity offered, until October, 1856, when Rev. Lewis Bodwell entered upon the pastorate. The following Sabbath, (Nov. 2d, 1856,) the communion of the Lord's supper was celebrated for the first time in Topeka.

About that time $365 were subscribed towards the erection of a church edifice, and the site at present occupied was donated by the Topeka Association.

With substantial help from Eastern friends, the foundations of a stone structure were laid in the fall of 1857. During the next year the walls were built. The work was necessarily of slow progress, being performed mostly by the members themselves, as they could find time. The pastor, hardly distinguishable from the other laborers, put in his "days' works" without stint. Before the walls were secured by the roof, however, a violent tornado reduced them to a pile of ruins.

In the spring of 1860, the work of rebuilding was undertaken. When partially completed, the south wall was again leveled by a wind storm. Work was at once resumed, and in spite of discouragements and reverses, the walls were inclosed in the fall of the same year, and the edifice, completed at a cost of about $7,000, was dedicated early in 1861. The permanent pews were not added until two years later.

In May, 1860, Rev. Mr. Bodwell resigned his work on account of ill-health, and entered upon the work of superintendent of home missions of his denomination for the State.

In October, 1860, Rev. Peter McVicar was called to the pastorate. The membership was then 56. Mr. McVicar continued to fill the office of pastor for six years. These were years of national war and stirring events. Much of the time the Kansas border was in a state of alarm, and the pastor was absent with the troops at the front. Still the church continued to have a steady growth, and many were added unto it of such as should be saved.

The pastorate having been terminated, in July, 1866, by the firmly-adhered-to request of Mr. McVicar, Rev. Mr. Bodwell was again called to serve the church, and entered upon his work in September, 1866.

After three years of spiritual prosperity to the church, the pastor, for reasons pertaining to health, again felt compelled to tender his resignation, which was reluctantly accepted, in June, 1869.

Rev. James G. Merrill was then called to be pastor, and labored in the ministry of the church for one year, when, duty calling him to the superintendency of home missions for Kansas, he also resigned. During his pastorate, a fine bell was placed upon the church tower.

In September, 1870, a call was extended to Rev. Linus Blakesley to become pastor of the church. He entered upon the work shortly after, and has continued in charge to the present time. Early during his ministration, a new bell was procured, to take the place of the former, which had become broken, and the church edifice was renovated and repaired, at an outlay of $1,300.

In 1880, the old church edifice was demolished, to give place to the beautiful and substantial structure now occupied, at a cost, including organ and other furnishings, of $35,000 — the first ornate church that had been built in Topeka. The membership of this parent church at this writing is 500.

There is a Congregational church on the north side of the river, of eighty members, and one in "Tennesseetown," of about forty members.

THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH.

This church was organized September 9, 1860, with the Rev. Charles M. Callaway as rector; Charles C. Kellam, James Fletcher, John W. Farnsworth, C. K. Holliday and J. F. Cummings, vestrymen.

The Rev. Mr. Callaway had been holding services at Topeka since the autumn of 1857; the place of service being a hall in the third story of a building on the southeast corner of Kansas and Sixth avenues, known as the Ritchie block, which had been neatly fitted up for the purpose.

On the 15th of September, 1860, measures were first instituted to raise funds for building a church edifice. In the same month, Mr. Callaway tendered his resignation, and on the 16th of November he was transferred by Bishop Lee to the diocese of Missouri.

The Rev. N. O. Preston succeeded to the rectorship on the 7th of December, 1860, and services were held at the hall mentioned till May or June of the following summer, from which date they were held at the rooms of the Episcopal Female Seminary.

Work was commenced on the erection of the church building, at the southwest corner of Seventh and Jackson streets, in June, 1861, but the walls were only partially raised that year, and it was not till the summer of 1863 that the building was completed and temporarily furnished, and services held there. On the 7th of March, 1864, the Rev. Mr. Preston tendered his resignation, and connected himself with the Agricultural College, at Manhattan. From that date till June, 1865, services were held by the Rev. R. W. Oliver, and other clergymen of the diocese.

In the month of June, 1860, the Rev. John N. Lee succeeded to the charge of the parish, and ministered in that capacity, in addition to the exacting labors of his position as principal of the Episcopal Female Seminary, until the summer of 1871. In November of that year, he was succeeded by the Rev. John Bakewell.

On the 13th of April, 1874, the vestry decided to proceed to an enlargement and general improvement of the church edifice, and in place of services during the making of such improvements, hired "Union Hall," located at No. 197 Kansas avenue. The improvements were completed in the month of August, at an expense of $5,000, and the building consecrated on the 9th of September.

On the 3d of May, 1875, Mr. Bakewell's resignation, which for some time had been before the vestry, was accepted, but he was urged to continue in temporary charge of the parish so long as he might remain in the city, and this request he complied with.

Upon retirement of Rev. Mr. Bakewell, and at his suggestion, an invitation was extended by the vestry to the Rev. John F. Steen to become their rector, but he declined. Then, at the suggestion of Bishop Vail, made on the 10th of December, the Rev. Henry H. Loring was invited to the charge, who accepted, and commenced his ministrations at the close of January, 1876. Mr. Loring continued as rector for the term of about three years.

In January, 1880, a pipe organ was provided, at an expense of about $1,700.

On the 19th of May, 1879, the parish tendered its church to Bishop Vail as a cathedral chapel, which tender was accepted by the bishop, and at the succeeding diocesan convention this action was approved. During the spring and the fore part of the summer of 1879, services were held by the bishop, assisted by Deacon Alfred S. Brown.

On the 30th of June, the vestry invited the bishop to call to his assistance the Rev. J. F. Walker. The invitation was duly made, and the Rev. Mr. Walker commenced his regular service in the following month. In August of that year he was installed as dean of the cathedral chapter. Dean Walker died at the Theological Seminary buildings, at high noon on the 20th of February, 1880. During the short period of his ministry in the parish, he had made a very deep impression upon the whole city of his eminent ability and piety.

The Rev. Richard Ellerby was called as dean of the parish, on the 12th of July, 1880, and in that capacity preached his first sermon on the 8th day of August, 1880, and continues in charge at the date of this publication.

The Church of the Good Shepherd was established as a mission, at about 1880, and during the ministrations of Deacon Alfred Brown, in 1883, a very pretty church edifice was erected. In the fall of 1884, the Rev. John N. Lee, D. D., assumed charge of the mission, and so remains at the close of 1885.

The St. Philip's Episcopal Mission was established in 1885, under the charge of the Rev. W. A. Green. It has no house of worship, but meets in a hall on Kansas avenue.

THE CHURCH OF THE ASSUMPTION.

This church was organized in the month of March, 1862, and a church building erected that year, near the northwest corner of Jackson street and Eighth avenue, at a cost of about $2,000. The Rev. J. H. Defouri was in charge till 1876, when he was succeeded by the very Rev. J. F. Cunningham, who continued in charge till 1882, and was then succeeded by Rev. J. O'Reilly. A large and substantial church of brick was erected in 1882, at a cost of $20,000. This church owns spacious grounds, and, besides the buildings named, it has several others, used for schools and purposes of dwelling. Its number of communicants at the close of the year 1885 was about 1,050. In the month of November, 1885, it placed a large and fine-toned church bell. In this connection it may be stated, that the first bell used in Topeka was by this church, it having been presented by Mr. Edward C. K. Garvey, who had brought it to Topeka in 1855. It is still used for school purposes, and the old citizens listen to its cheerful tones with pleasure, as being a memorial of all time past in

Topeka's history; and it is hoped that it may ever be preserved as such.

In connection with the erection of the church, in 1862, should be remembered the untiring efforts of Mr. Daniel Handley, who for many years was one of Topeka's most substantial citizens, and who with his companions, of Capt. Burns' battery, was killed at the battle of the Blue, on the 22d of October, 1864.

THE METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH.

This society was organized on the 31st of March, 1855. A few months after the Topeka Association gave the church lots Nos. 157 to 167 inclusive, on Quincy street, upon which stone fortifications had been erected to defend the town against the violent Pro-Slavery men of Missouri.

The first pastor was Rev. J. S. Griffin. In 1860, the Rev. Ira Blackford being pastor, a church building was commenced, and in the succeeding year it was so far advanced as to be available for services, but was not finished till 1867, the Rev. J. D. Knox being at the time pastor. It was at that time much the finest church in the town, having in its lofty spire a large church bell and a town clock.

In 1870, the Rev. T. J. Leak pastor, it became necessary to enlarge the church, and otherwise add to its capacity, by erecting a gallery.

In 1878, a parsonage was purchased and finished, at an expense of $2,500; Rev. James E. Gilbert, pastor. The church at that time had a membership of 353, and a Sunday school of 500 children.

Though several branch churches of this denomination had been established in different parts of the city, the parent church was greatly in need of more room, and in 1879 the old church was sold, and grounds purchased on the southwest corner of Harrison street and Sixth avenue for the site of a new church.

In 1881, a new church was erected, at a cost of $30,000. Rev. S. McChesney succeeded to the charge in March, 1884. This church had, in 1885, a membership of over 800, and a Sunday school of variable attendance, from 800 to 1,000.

In addition to this parent organization, there are eleven branch churches, as independent organizations of substantially the same denomination of Christians, in Topeka, in 1885.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH.

This church was organized Dec. 9, 1859, by Rev. A. T. Rankin. This organization virtually lapsed, and a reorganization was effected by Rev. John A. Steele, who took charge of the church early in 1860, and who died Oct. 12, 1864. Under his ministry, the first house of worship was built—a small brick edifice, located at No. 230 Kansas avenue.

After Mr. Steele's death, Rev. S. T. McClure had charge of the congregation for several months.

Rev. John Ekin, D.D., became pastor of the church in 1866, and continued as such until October, 1868.

Rev. F. S. McCabe, D.D., became pastor of the church January 1, 1869—the membership at that time consisting of thirty persons. In 1868, a stone chapel 35x50 feet had been erected on Eighth avenue, east of Kansas avenue. This chapel was dedicated, without debt, in July, 1869. It was enlarged in 1870, and further enlarged, with addition of tower and spire, in 1879.

During the pastorate of Dr. McCabe, the following organizations of Presbyterian churches were made in the city and county, formed largely of persons connected with the First church:

Bethel church, eight miles southeast of Topeka, organized May 28, 1871; has a stone house of worship.

Pleasant Ridge church, nine miles northwest of the city, organized July 16, 1876; has a stone house of worship.

Wakarusa church, twelve miles south of the city, organized Dec. 5, 1877; has a frame house of worship.

North Topeka church, organized Sept. 15, 1878; has a stone house of worship, on Quincy street, between D and E streets, dedicated Nov. 16, 1879. Rev. John C. Miller became pastor Dec. 12, 1878, and continued until October, 1885.

Third Presbyterian church, organized Dec. 12, 1880; has a stone edifice, corner of Third and Hancock streets, built in 1882. Rev. John W. Crawford was pastor of the church from 1880 until October, 1883. Rev. Dr. McCabe took charge of the church Nov. 1, 1883.

Mission Center church, six miles west of the city, organized Jan. 16, 1881; worships in Grange Hall.

At the close of Dr. McCabe's pastorate, April, 1882, the number of communicants in the First church was 300.

Rev. H. W. George took charge of the church in October, 1882. The present house of worship, located on Harrison street, was dedicated April 12, 1885.

The number of communicants in the respective churches is as follows: First church, 450; North Topeka church, 100; Third church, 40; total, 590.

THE BAPTIST CHURCH.

The First Baptist Church of Topeka was organized on the 1st of March, 1857; the Rev. David Seagraves, Joseph C. Miller, Jesse Stone, J. F. Merriam and William Jordon being the most active persons in the movement. The Rev. J. Gilpatrick who had for many years prior to the settlement of Kansas been in charge of a Baptist mission among the Pottawatomie Indians, and whose mission house was near the site of Auburn at the date of the founding of Topeka, in connection with the Rev. Mr. Seagraves, held service for the little family of Baptists for about two years.

The Rev. C. C. Hutchinson, afterwards founder of the city of Hutchinson, in Reno county, was the first regular pastor of the church, and through great efforts his little flock of devoted men and women raised $1,200 in that terribly disastrous year to Kansas—1860—with which to provide themselves a suitable place of worship. The place by this means provided was in the second story of a neat brick mercantile house that had been erected by Mr. Miller at No. 191 Kansas avenue, and there the society worshipped till the date of the erection of their edifice at the northeast corner of Jackson and Ninth streets.

Mr. Hutchinson was succeeded in the pastorate by the Rev. E. Alward, about the beginning of 1862. The Rev. Isaac Sawyer succeeded Mr. Alward November 10, 1866, and resigned in 1868.

The Topeka Association had donated to this church as to others a site for a church edifice, consisting of six lots, Nos. 206 to 216 on Harrison street, but when it felt itself strong enough to erect such an edifice, it exchanged the Harrison street lots for the same number at the northeast corner of Ninth and Jackson streets, and paid a difference of $1,100.

In 1870 and 1871, the building was erected, and a room finished in the basement, where service was held for several years, at a cost of about $15,000.

The Rev. E. O. Taylor succeeded to the pastorate on the 12th of April, 1871.

The Rev. C. Monjeau succeeded Mr. Taylor in 1874, and during his pastorate the auditorium and galleries were finished, embracing many features of appropriate style, which rendered the edifice more beautiful than any other in the city.

The Rev. C. C. Foote succeeded Rev. Monjeau in 1880, and in April, 1885, the gentleman now in charge, Rev. T. R. Peters, succeeded Mr. Foote.

The number of enrolled communicants in this society at the close of 1885 was about 280.

The writer would be recreant to his sense of justice, were he to fail to mention the names of his for many years intimate friends, Joseph C. Miller, Esq., the Hon. J. R. Swallow and Maj. Andrew Stark, as among the very efficient gentlemen who in past time labored with great effect in the field of temporalities for this church.

There are in the city three other societies of this order of Christians, namely, the North Topeka Baptist church, with house at northeast corner of Harrison and Laurent streets, the Memorial Baptist church, with house at corner of Third and Madison streets, and the Swedish Baptist church.

The membership in these aggregates considerably in excess of that of the parent society.

CHURCH OF THE NEW JERUSALEM.

(SWEDENBORGIAN.)

The Topeka Society of the New Jerusalem was formed in the summer of 1880, and permanently organized in November of that year, with the Rev. Howard C. Dunham as minister.

Being without a church edifice, services were regularly held at the residence of Mr. Edward Wilder, from November, 1880, to the fore part of October, 1881.

During the year 1881, a very handsome chapel of the Queen Anne cottage style of architecture was erected, at the southeast corner of Harrison street and Sixth avenue, and on October 9th of that year it was formally dedicated to the Lord as a New Church house of worship, and for all the higher uses of religious and social culture. The chapel will comfortably seat about one hundred persons. Its interior appointments are peculiarly neat and attractive, and harmonize most beautifully with the general features of the church.

During the year 1883, a parsonage, which is also of the Queen Anne style of architecture, and which is in the most perfect harmony with all its surroundings, was erected immediately back of the chapel, and was turned over to the minister and family for occupancy during the latter part of that year.

The growth of this society has been steady but not rapid. Beginning with but six communicant members, it now numbers twenty-six. The organization is a double one, thereby permitting the coöperation of a number of parish members who are not yet members of the church.

Their Sunday school began in October, 1880, with one teacher and six scholars. It now numbers seven teachers and about thirty scholars. It has a library of over two hundred books, with charts, etc.

In the latter part of 1885, the Rev. Howard C. Dunham, who had so long and acceptably filled the pulpit of this society, received a call from the Portland, Maine, society, and as the field was a larger one, thereby enabling him to perform a greater use, he deemed it to be his duty to accept. He therefore severed his pastorate charge here early in 1886.

The Rev. Frank L. Higgins, who for three years was a minister in the Free-Will Baptist church, but recently from the theological school of the New Jerusalem church, in Boston, was invited to assume ministerial charge of the society.

In connection with this history, it may not be out of place to give in brief the faith of the New Church, which is as follows:

The Lord Jesus Christ is the only God of the heavens and the earth. In Him is a divine trinity of love, wisdom and power, called in the Scripture the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, and represented in man, who was created in His image and likeness, by the soul, the body, and the operation thence. He came to man by assuming his human nature, through which He overcame the ascendency of hell with him, and thus redeemed him.

Man accepts redemption and is regenerated by shunning evils as sins in the acknowledgment of the Lord.

The Sacred Scripture is the word of God, containing within and above its letter the divine truth itself. By it man may know good from evil, may be associated with angels and conjoined to the Lord.

Man is an immortal spirit, clothed with a material body, which is put off at death; after which, according to the quality of his life on earth, he dwells in heaven as an angel, or seeks an abode with his like in hell.

The second coming of the Lord is not in person, but is in the opening of the spiritual sense of the Word, and the establishment of a new church on earth. It was effected by a general judgment, which took place A. D. 1757, and by the revelation of the doctrines of that church through Emanuel Swedenborg, a servant of the Lord Jesus Christ.

THE FIRST UNITARIAN SOCIETY

Was organized about the middle of June, 1883. Persons taking part in the organization were Mr. and Mrs. George W. Wood, Dr. O. B. Morse, Robert Pierce, Mrs. Anna G. Brown, Mr. and Mrs. A. P. Wilder and their daughter Belle, John A. Dailey, F. M. Hayward and F. H. Foster. Arrangements were soon after made to hold services in the city library building, and the Rev. E. Powell engaged as pastor, he having been for some time previous to that date engaged in the missionary service, under the auspices of the American Unitarian Society, of Boston.

About the first of September, 1885, the society purchased lots Nos. 302, 304, 306, on Topeka avenue, and at once commenced the erection of a church building there. The work of construction was prosecuted with great vigor, and a very handsome little church completed about the first of January, 1886, at a cost, including the cost of lots and furnishings, of $8,200.

The Rev. Mr. Powell continues in charge, under highly encouraging circumstances, his flock having increased in three years from the typical "two or three assembled together" to a membership of 47, and an average attendance of 100.

THE ENGLISH LUTHERAN CHURCH.

The Rev. Morris Officer, secretary of the Board of Missions of the General Synod of the English Lutheran Church in America, together with J. B. McAfee, John Guthrie, C. H. Ellison, A. P. Benson, George Rubble, A. S. Halmburg and Hugo Kullok, were the men chiefly instrumental in the organization of this church in Topeka, on the 7th of April, 1867.

Rev. A. J. Hesson was its first pastor, his services being from June, 1867, to November, 1871. Services were held at Germania Hall, Nos. 170 and 172 Kansas avenue, until 1871, when the society bought lots Nos. 163, 165, 167 Topeka avenue, and erected a small frame church building, at a cost of $3,500.

The Rev. B. F. Alleman was pastor during the most of the year 1872, but thereafter for some years the society was without a pastor much of the time.

The Rev. T. F. Dornblazer became pastor in 1880, and is still in charge.

A fine brick church edifice was erected at the northeast corner of Harrison and Fifth streets in 1885, at an expense of $17,000, and the society seems in a highly prosperous state. Its present membership is 164.

SWEDISH EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH.

This church was first organized in Topeka in September, 1869, by Rev. A. W. Dahlsten. It was then received into the Augustana Synod of the Lutheran Church of America. Of those who first organized this church, Mr. Andrew Pearson is the only one who is at the present time a member.

On August 15th, 1870, the church was reorga-
English Lutheran Church of America. The mem-
nized, and received into the General Synod of the
bership was then thirty-two. The first pastor who served the congregation for any length of time was Rev. C. J. Scheleen. He preached for nearly two years, and during his service the first house of worship was erected, on Tyler street, between Second and Third.

In 1872, the church was again received into the Augustana synod, where it yet remains. After a year's vacancy, the congregation called Rev. C. V. Vestling, who for eight years divided his labor between Topeka and Osage City, where also a Swedish Lutheran church was organized. After Rev. C. V. Vestling had departed, the congregation called the Rev. John Holcomb. He has to the present time faithfully served the congregation, not only in preaching the gospel, but has also been chiefly instrumental in the erection of a beautiful little church and parsonage, at the northeast corner of Fourth and Tyler streets, at a cost of $8,000. The present membership is about seventy-five.

There are at the close of 1885 about thirty other church organizations holding regular weekly services in Topeka, most of them being provided with houses of worship.

BIOGRAPHICAL.

PHILIP BRIGGS.

AT about the time the founders of Topeka commenced their work, Mr. Philip Briggs appeared upon the scene. He was a native of Vermont, but had resided for a number of years previous to 1854 in California.

He had hardly taken the simple measures necessary to constitute himself a "squatter," but yet expressed a desire, if not an intention, of exercising his preëmption rights with reference to some quarter-section of land in the immediate vicinity, and apprehensions were entertained that he might be in the way of laying out the town as designed. He was therefore invited to join in the town enterprise and make his selection of lands for farming purposes subservient to the best interests of the town.

Mr. Briggs was a man of some eccentricities, but full of shrewdness and good judgment, and became a valuable member of the town company. He had some difficulty in securing the land he desired, but immediately after its preëmption by Loring G. Cleveland, that gentleman conveyed to the estate of Mr. Briggs the west half of southeast quarter of section 32, township 11, range 16. A dispute had existed between these two men as to their respective rights of preëmption on this quarter-section, and each had occupied it for four years prior to Briggs' death, which took place, or was known to the public rather, on the morning of the 2d of December, 1857.

On that morning he was found dead in his cabin, having been killed by a gun shot; his musket lying near the corpse. He had stated on the day previous that he was going to slaughter one of his animals, and as shooting was then the common mode of doing so, the inference seemed legitimate that the deceased, by some accidental discharge of his musket, had come to his death.

Mr. Briggs had had a good deal of difficulty with a man of violent temperament to whom he had loaned money, and there were surmises that he had come to his death at the hands of his enraged debtor, but no proof was adduced to that end, though in subsequent years, when the man in turn came to face the common enemy, it was said that confessions of a startling character were made.

JOSEPH C. MILLER.

Mr. Miller came to Topeka from Connecticut early in the spring of 1855, and established himself in the tin and hardware business. He gained the respect of the few people then in Topeka, and as his character in subsequent years became fully known, the town bore to him the kindest sentiments of regard. A quiet, unobtrusive man, his heart was always right and his hand was always ready. He occupied positions of trust from time to time, and then the people never feared for results. He was fearless and outspoken in denunciation of all wrong; an abolitionist, of course, never seeking disputations, and never shirking responsibility.

He was, under God, the power that founded the Baptist church in Topeka, and for many years its greatest support. We are unable to call to mind any family among the early settlers of Topeka who did more to correctly mold the moral sentiment than did Joseph C. Miller, Esq., and his wife Sarah.

Mr. Miller died May 9th, 1879, mourned of all who knew him.

JUDGE JACOB SAFFORD.

The author first met Judge Safford at Tecumseh, in the spring of 1859, and was at once impressed with his personal activity, his clear and alert intellect, and his mirthful congeniality of temperament, and thereafter for more than twenty years was in close business relations with him; never a known wrong between us, never an unkind word, never a word of censure.

He came to Topeka in the spring of 1860, and soon secured a full quota of business in his profession of law. He at once became interested in the prosperity of the town, and was always ready to engage with his mind and his means in any undertaking that promised to advance its material welfare.

He was the first judge elected to the bench in the judicial district of his residence, faithfully and intelligently discharging its offices for four years, and subsequently for six years was one of the judges upon the supreme bench of the State. Judge Safford was for some years attorney for the Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fé Railroad. But the character in which we remember him with supreme pleasure, is that of director and attorney of the Midland road—that most exacting, wearying and discouraging, yet most important enterprise, in a business point of view, of any in which Topekans as such ever engaged. Judge Safford was one of the most industrious men that we ever knew.

There are influences always operating to render one in the profession of the law unmindful of the moral elements in this client's suit. We knew Judge Safford to resort to devices of delay in bringing suits for clients whom he knew were right in the law, but in morality wrong, and would only consent to bring the suit after counseling with the defendant, and beating his breast in anger over his client's course. We would like to live in a world of such as he. Judge Safford died on the 2d day of July, 1885.

THOMAS G. THORNTON.

Mr. Thornton, a native of the State of Maine, came to Topeka about the 8th of December, 1854, and at once took an active part in the scheme of founding the town. He was a lawyer by profession—a highly-educated and clear-headed gentleman, but so illy fitted to the drudgeries and deprivations of frontier life, as always made his coming seem a mystery, and created in the writer's mind an association of the event of his coming with the pitiable tragedy of another's going, at just that time, to the land of the blessed. But this association is mostly sentimental. I have no fact to support it but the events alone; and still any one who knew him must have felt that he was out of place in Kansas at that early day, as they often observed him, in meditative mood, walking alone — a tall, erect figure, dressed invariably in black, and the long cloak and slouched hat, conspicuous characteristics — that he was a mysterious being.

Eccentric he certainly was, but always an agreeable companion with such as he chose for associates. A man of few words, of either praise or censure, excepting when some wrongdoer excited his wrath; towards such his scathing rebukes were most terrible.

Mr. Thornton occupied for many years an office at No. 85 Sixth avenue east, where he gave wise counsels upon town matters, attended to matters of conveyancing, and entertained strangers who visited the town.

When days of illness came, he went to Madison, Wis., to have the care of a brother, and from thence the news of his death came to Topeka as having occurred on the 4th day of November, 1868, to the grief of all who knew him.

Mr. Thornton's witty sayings and eccentric doings are among the cherished memories of Topekans. I will mention one. He abruptly said to a friend: "Archie, let us take a walk." The twain started from Sixth avenue, and walked southward to the Shunganunga. At that point Mr. Thornton said: "Archie, let us go home," and they turned and walked back to town, the two expressions I have quoted being the only words spoken on their two miles' walk.

FRANKLIN LOOMIS CRANE.

The subject of this memoir arrived in Topeka at about the middle of April, 1855, from Easton, in the State of Pennsylvania, where he had for many years resided and pursued the profession of dentist, though he was a native of the State of Connecticut.

We know not what other motives, if any, Dr. Crane had in coming to Kansas in that early day, but of two purposes that he entertained no one who knew him in those times could be ignorant. He came to do what he might to make Kansas a free State, and to use his life's energies in developing its resources. Who that has lived in Topeka would dare to say that he has done more in those directions.

On the 23d day of April, 1855, Dr. Crane's name was first before the Topeka Association, and then as an applicant for admission to membership, preffering advantages to the handful of settlers that were most grateful to them; and from that day to the day of his death, which occurred at Carthage, New Mexico, on the 21st of November, 1884, his name, and his influence and his fame, were an integral part of the city of Topeka.

Very soon after he became a member of the Topeka Association, he was elected to the board of trustees, and to its presidency; and in that position, every transaction that had to do with the weal or the woe of Topeka, until many years after, when there was no more efficient work for him to do, received the careful scrutiny of his clear mind. And when there was no more official work for him to do, he never faltered in his zeal for the good of Topeka. Wherever his counsels, his labor or his means could be to Topeka's good, there was he.

But it was not in the material affairs only that Dr. Crane labored. In the aid and support of literary, musical, educational and benevolent enterprises, with a liberal hand and a kindly heart, he was always ready.

For thirty years the writer walked side by side with Dr. Crane in the business affairs of life, and fain would he hope to merit the loving remembrance that the people of Topeka justly cherish for his friend. We do not speak of particular official positions, nor of the labors of Dr. Crane in public enterprises designed to lift the little hamlet, as he found it in 1855, to the gratifying position that it enjoyed thirty years afterwards; they lie like landmarks all along the course. We close this brief tribute to his memory, bespeaking for him an exalted position among the men who most did labor and most did do to make Topeka what she is. Franklin L. Crane — the City of Topeka — let those names ever remain united in the memory of the just.

JOHN HENRY KAGI.

The author is not informed as to the precise time of Mr. Kagi's arrival in Kansas, but he was living at Topeka and connected with the staff of the *Kansas Tribune*, then published by John Speer and Edmund G. Ross, in the fall of 1856.

He was a native of Virginia, but had left that State at an early age for the North, taking with him three slaves, to their freedom. He was a most advanced abolitionist, taking the ground that slavery was so monstrous an evil that it could not be reached by moral suasion, and only by the weapons it used—physical force. He made himself exceedingly obnoxious to the Pro-Slavery party, and during the month of November, 1856, was a political prisoner, with a hundred other Free-State men, at Lecompton.

At a Free-State convention, held at Topeka on the 10th of March, in that year, he was a delegate, and was appointed by the convention upon a committee to prepare an address to the American people upon the wrongs of Kansas.

Mr. Kagi was an able writer and speaker, and contributed valuable articles upon the situation in Kansas to the *Herald*, *Times* and *Tribune*, of New York city, during his stay here. The somewhat famous papers, styled John Brown's "Parallels," have been attributed to Mr. Kagi, and as he was often with Brown he may have had a part at least in their production, but of that we must remain ignorant. While living at Topeka, he published something in the *Kansas Tribune* at which Judge Elmore took offense, and subsequently the two men, on meeting at Tecumseh, exchanged shots with their revolvers. Judge Elmore was considerably injured, and Kagi would undoubtedly have been killed but for a book in his breast pocket, which averted the course and force of a ball.

Kagi and Aaron D. Stevens, *alias* Whipple, were close friends, and spent much time together in Topeka, and no two men could been found, perhaps, who were better fitted to accompany John Brown on his perilous trip to Harper's Ferry than they. There they perished.

AARON D. STEVENS *alias* WHIPPLE.

This man came to Topeka in the spring of 1856. After taking observations for a few weeks, and discovering that a tract of land lying along the south bank of the river, to the east of town, was unoccupied, according to the sense in which that term is used in the preëmption laws, he proceeded to take possession of it, and erect a preëmption cabin thereon. The piece of ground was by tacit consent regarded as the preëmption privilege, or "the claim," of Thomas G. Thornton, Esq., who had been at Topeka almost from the day it was founded, and who was regarded by his acquaintances as privileged from a very strict observance of Government regulations to maintain his preëmption rights, and the little community naturally looked with no favor upon this attempted "jumping" of Thornton's claim by the stranger.

Stevens had given his name as "Whipple," and was known by no other. He was of a quick and active mind, ready in conversation, and deeply imbued with anti-slavery sentiments. For his zeal in the cause of free Kansas, he came to be regarded with complacency, notwithstanding his breach of squatter etiquette in jumping Thornton's claim.

It was observed that he had a knowledge of military tactics, and he was made captain of one of the Topeka companies attached to the "Lane brigade." He was present with his company at the Hickory Point fight, and wherever else the cause seemed to demand. He formed the acquaintance of John Brown, and when that old hero was ready to move on his last expedition, he invited the enthusiastic Capt. Whipple to accompany him. While lying mortally wounded in prison at Harper's Ferry, the Norwich (Conn.) *Bulletin* gave the following biographic notice of him:

> Aaron Dwight Stevens is son of Capt. Aaron Stevens, of Norwich. He was born in Lisbon, Conn., somewhere near the year 1830. He was a bold, fearless boy, rather restive under parental discipline, but always known as a kind-hearted fellow, and one who would always take sides with the weaker party. He lived in this vicinity a part of the time, with his parents, till his fifteenth year (1845), and then left for Boston, where he joined a company of volunteers, for the war then beginning in Mexico. Proceeding to the scene of conflict, he happened to be in nearly all the engagements that occurred during that struggle; no situation of unusual peril, and which involved unusual hardships, but Dwight Stevens was the man for the place. He enjoyed

the confidence of his superior officers, and was sometimes entrusted with the execution of enterprises that, but for his fearlessness, would have been committed to men far above him in rank.

After the conclusion of the Mexican war, he spent some time in this vicinity, but at length found himself in Kansas, about the commencement of hostilities there. His Mexican campaign had given him a soldierly air, besides imparting to his physical system a power of endurance and strength of muscle almost without a parallel. Espousing the cause of the Free-State men with all the ardor of his impetuous nature, he was soon elected, under the assumed name of Whipple, to the command of the "Topeka Boys."

In the interim between the time of Stevens' leaving Connecticut and his appearance at Topeka, he had somewhere attached himself to the U. S. army as a bugler, and was stationed on the western frontier. The command to which he was attached was ordered to Fort Leavenworth. Soon after the march began Stevens became greatly incensed at one of the officers for an inhuman treatment of a private, and, regardless of consequences to himself, he fell upon the officer with such fury that it was the last of his bugle, and came near being the last of the officer. For this offense he was marched across the plains to Fort Leavenworth with a ball and chain attached to his ankle, and then tried by court martial and sentenced to be shot. Intercession was made for him by some of the officers to the President, and the sentence commuted to three years' hard labor upon the barracks, with ball and chain attached to his ankle. He served the Government in this way till about the 1st of January, 1856, when he deserted, and concealed himself with the Delaware Indians, on their reserve near the Kaw river. There he remained till his appearance at Topeka, about the first of March. He was in Topeka during a part of the summer of 1857.

THE STREET RAILWAY.

THE subject of a street railway had been often discussed, and two or more charters for the enterprise had been taken, prior to 1881, but it was not till the summer of that year that men were bold enough to risk their capital in constructing and equipping one.

As soon as the city council was asked to grant the right-of-way, considerable rivalry was manifested between two companies in their efforts to secure that privilege, and under these circumstances the council came to regard the enterprise as promising great profits to the promoters, so that the right-of-way through the streets was only obtained after repeated trials and delays, to say nothing of expenses.

When, however, all difficulties were removed, the work of construction was vigorously prosecuted, and on the first of June, 1881, this great public convenience was first enjoyed by the people of Topeka. The line at first extended from Tenth avenue across the river to the track of the Union Pacific Railroad, with a branch on Fifth street to the A. T. & S. F. depot—a total line of about one mile and five-eighths. The equipment at first consisted of but four or five cars, and horses enough to move them. On the night of the 17th of October, 1881, the company sustained a loss of its stables, cars and animals by fire, but a new supply was obtained as quickly as possible; and since that event the company has steadily progressed in extending its rails and increasing its facilities, till, at this writing, in 1885, it operates eight and one-half miles of road, uses twenty-five coaches, and employs thirty-two men and ninety-five animals. No better track, no better equipment, no better operating can be shown by any street railway company in the United States than by the Topeka City Railway Company. May the future historian of Topeka be able to repeat this statement.

THE EXODUS.

AN event of considerable importance to Topeka was the extraordinary migratory movement of the colored people from Tennessee and other States of the Mississippi valley, in 1879 and 1880.

There is evidence that the colored people of that region, as well as in Missouri, had a vague knowledge, as *far* back as in 1856, that somewhere on the broad earth was a place known as Kansas, and they fancied that in some way the question of their emancipation was connected with it—the first ray of hope that had dawned upon the American bondman. Later, they knew that something had occurred there to make their masters more desperate, and hence, in their feeble reasoning they said, more hopeful to themselves.

They did not see the issue. Who could? But all during the war they remembered Kansas, and fancied that some connection existed between the events of 1856 and those of 1861. It was said that during the war they heard of the Kansas "Jayhawkers," and in childish imagination supposed some connection existed between that strange organization with a strange name, and the steady going forth of their people from Missouri to freedom. Then, when, fifteen years after the close of the war, they stretched themselves, and the sensations of chains upon them had passed away, their recollections of Kansas came vividly back, and the more they thought of that to them strange and unknown land, the more their conceptions expanded in regard to it, until, finally, they entertained most extravagant ideas of "forty acres and a mule," and a year's subsistence, awaiting for them in a land of promise.

At length a few of the bolder spirits from Tennessee came. They hastily viewed a few of the eastern towns of Kansas, and saw the condition of those of their race, who for from five to fifteen years had preceded them, from Missouri. A committee of advice returned, and then the "Exodus" began. On the banks of the Mississippi, as the boats came up the river, they stood in waiting by hundreds. I wish some pen of rare ability would describe the motley crowd. Passage, and only passage, they implored. Without quarters, without subsistence, only as fourth-class freight, they begged transportation to St. Louis.

The first boat load that arrived there was noticed in the newspapers of that city as a remarkable event. As load after load arrived, and St. Louis did not want them, charity came to their help, and all, or nearly all, succeeded in reaching Kansas City and Wyandotte. Efforts were there made to divert the stream, partially at least, to other States, but very few could be induced to go anywhere but to Kansas, and on they came; it is hard to conceive how, but 7,000 had reached Topeka by the first of August, and from 100 to 300 were the arrivals weekly.

A relief society was formed, and barracks hastily erected for their accommodation. Benevolent and charitable persons, the foremost of whom were women, attended constantly their wants, while the ingenuity of the ablest was taxed to devise ways for them to become self-supporting. They were sent in colonies to other towns, and settled upon low-priced lands, in such quantities as they might be able to pay for in after years.

Considerable apprehension was felt as to the effect of so large an immigration of persons so utterly illiterate, but additional school houses were constructed, equal to the accommodation of all the children, and evening schools were maintained for the adults. In this way a great deal of good was done. This evidence to them that the community felt an interest in their advancement intellectually, as well as materially, was very beneficial. They at once became very valuable as laborers in the grades of labor requiring little mechanical skill, and at the end of five years they show a degree of advancement in all conditions of civil life very surprising. Nearly all who so desire have comfortable houses of their own. They labor industriously; live as well and dress as well as do unskilled laborers anywhere in the world; while many of them have become good mechanics, getting the same pay as white mechanics, with whom they work side by side. Some have become property holders in sums of thousands of dollars, and their children vie with the white children for prizes in the city high schools.

The aggregate of this remarkable exodus, as they were fond of calling the movement, with some degree of religious enthusiasm, for the year 1879 was from 20,000 to 25,000, and in 1880 this was swelled to 40,000. They were mostly from Tennessee and Mississippi. About 3,000 at that time remained permanently in Topeka, most of whom were from Tennessee. They secured dwelling places in the outskirts of the city—some to the east, some at the northwest corner, but more to the west. In that locality a tract of eighty acres had been platted as an addition to the city a few years before, under the name of King's addition, and a large proportion of the lots had fallen to the ownership of a bankrupt estate, and went to sale at very low prices. The colored men could buy lots there for several years at prices varying from $50 to $100 each, and they congregated there in such numbers that the locality took the name of "Tennesseetown," which it still bears. It is thickly occupied with comfortable houses, some of them of architectural pretensions. Neatness and good order prevail, good churches and good school houses of ample accommodations are there, and a happier community could nowhere be found. The locality of "Tennesseetown" is one of the most desirable for residence to be found about Topeka, and as the city spreads beyond it on the north and on the south, some disappointment has been expressed that the "darkies" do not sell their places and move on, but they do not seem inclined to do so. In that they are not yet fully Americanized.

The proportion of colored residents in Topeka in 1880, according to United States enumeration, was 31 per cent. of the whole population. In New Orleans, at the same time, it was 30 per cent., and in Louisville 20 per cent.

THE STATE REFORM SCHOOL.

THE Legislature of 1879 made provision for the establishment of a reform school for juvenile offenders, and appropriated the sum of $35,000 to erect buildings. The act provided that the site should be selected by the Governor, acting with the Board of Trustees of State Charitable Institutions, at a point not more than five miles distant from the State capitol; and the act provided further, that the city of Topeka should purchase the grounds so selected, to the extent of 160 acres, and donate the same to the State.

By a supplementary act, the commissioners of Shawnee county were authorized to pay for such grounds, to the extent of $15 per acre. The selection of locality being decided upon, it was learned that the ground could not be had short of $25 an acre. The people of Topeka were not surprised at this result, nor, indeed, having in mind the exactions of the State in regard to a site for the Asylum for the Insane, were they surprised at the limitation placed upon the county commissioners in the matter of payment, but they deemed the action of the State ungenerous, to say the least. However, they felt that the deficit of $1,600 in the purchase fund must be provided, and a few citizens effected a loan to that amount, and secured the title of the 160 acres to the State.

Buildings were erected in 1880, though not fitted for occupancy till the spring of 1881.

At the session of 1881, the Legislature was applied to, to refund the $1,600 advanced by citizens in payment for the site, but the bill introduced for the purpose was defeated. A bill was then introduced authorizing the commissioners of Shawnee county to make such payment, and this was passed.

In three years from the opening of this Reform School there were 114 boys confined there—or rather boarding there and receiving valuable schooling and discipline at the expense of the State, we should say, though it was only designed to accommodate 100 boys.

In 1884, the Legislature made an appropriation of $48,000 to enlarge the capacity of the institution, besides making provision for the establishment of another institution of somewhat similar character in some other locality of the State.

A CHAPTER OF TRIFLES.

FOLLOWING are the names of men residing at Topeka at the close of December, 1854, and of the States from which they came: C. K. Holliday, N. L. Mitchell, F. R. Foster, S. J. Case, Pennsylvania; H. F. Root, Thos. G. Thornton, C. N. Gray, T. McIntire, Maine; M. C. Dickey, F. W. Giles, J. E. Greenwood, New Hampshire; Enoch Chase, J. B. Chase, George Davies, G. F. Crowe, D. H. Horne, Abel Hartwell, E. S. Dexter, Massachusetts; L. G. Cleveland, Iowa; Philip Briggs, Jas. A. Hickey, J. F. Merriam, Vermont; S. A. Clark, Michigan; Wm. C. Linaker, England.

The name of the first woman who took up her residence in Topeka was Miss Harriet Hartwell. She came from Massachusetts, accompanied by two brothers, and arrived at Topeka on the 17th of January, 1855. Miss Hartwell some years afterwards married Mr. James G. Bunker.

The first sale of an interest in real estate was by Root to Frazier, on the 5th of March, 1855.

Telegraphic communication was first realized at Topeka on the 15th day of November, 1865, over the line of the Union Pacific Railway; and on the

18th of June, 1866, the *Daily State Record* published at Topeka the first direct telegraphic dispatches. The wires were not extended to the south side of the river till the 14th of September, 1870. The poles then used were in some cases of cottonwood, and one of those placed in front of lot No. 163 Kansas avenue took root, and now stands a flourishing memento of that important event—a noble tree six feet in girth.

The following notice of marriage, the first that took place in Topeka, is taken from the *Kansas Freeman:*

> MARRIED.—On the 21st of February, 1856, at the residence of the bride's sister, Mrs. George H. Woods, by Rev. H. B. Burgess, Sarah C. Harlan and J. F. Cummings.

On the twentieth anniversary of that interesting event, the bridegroom, then editor of the *Topeka Times*—as twenty years before he was editor of the *Kansas Freeman*—said in the columns of his paper:

> The minister who performed the ceremony gave us a ticket stating that we were duly married, but we didn't take the trouble to procure a license from the Territorial authorities, as our people were not working under the statutes passed by the Territorial Legislature, and Tecumseh was the seat of justice of the county of Shawnee, and thus far have we progressed; and do not see what possible difference it would have made to either of the parties to the contract had we procured the written authority from the probate judge, that the contract of marriage might be entered into.

The first child born at Topeka was a son to Mr. Israel Zimmerman, in the spring of 1855. He was named Topeka, and received a town lot from the association, as a grateful recognition of his auspicious coming.

The first death at Topeka was of a man named Abbott, who died of cholera, in a tent near the southeast corner of Kansas avenue and Third street, in the summer of 1855. There having been no place provided for cemetery purposes, he was buried on Kansas avenue, near Tenth, and that locality continued for some years thereafter to be used as a place of burial.

Apropos of this, it may be mentioned that in 1849, and in 1850, the disease of cholera had prevailed with considerable virulence about Uniontown, among the Pottawatomie Indians and settlers there.

The first accidental death occurred on the 4th of July, 1856, from the discharge of a gun in the hands of L. G. Cleveland, by which a man by the name of John Miles was instantly killed, in the store of Gordon & Allen, at No. 103 Kansas avenue.

USE OF ILLUMINATING GAS.

The Excelsior Coke and Gas Company filed its articles of incorporation on the 2d day of December, 1868. Its works were constructed in 1869, and on the 19th evening of January, 1870, the people of Topeka first rejoiced in gas illumination. A good deal of difficulty was experienced by the company during the first few years of operation, in getting a quality of coal the gas from which could be so perfectly cleansed from sulphurous odors as to render it entirely satisfactory. It had been hoped that the coal obtainable in Shawnee or Osage counties would be suitable for its purposes, but they were disappointed in this, and have always been under the necessity of procuring their coal from the southeastern counties of the State. Mains were laid across the bridge, and the first ward supplied with gas, in September, 1871. The demand for gas outgrew the capacity of the works, and they had to be rebuilt in 1882. They are supposed to be of a capacity equal to supplying a city of 50,000 people or more.

THE HANGING OF EDWARDS.

From the winter of 1855–6, there had resided at a point four or five miles down the river from Topeka two or three brothers having the name of Edwards—a most murderous gang they were.

At some time in the winter of 1860–1, Ike Edwards had been drinking with a Pottawatomie Indian at a saloon located near the northeast corner of First and Kansas avenues. The occasion was a dark evening, rainy, and the roads muddy. As the Indian came out from the saloon and mounted his pony, Edwards too came out, and mounted upon the pony behind him. The Indian directed his pony up town, but had not proceeded far before Edwards brought his Bowie knife around into the Indian's side, inflicting a mortal wound, and tipped him off into the mud. Edwards' equanimity of mind seemed no way disturbed by this, to him, trifling event. He stayed about the street till the murder was known to some of the citizens, who caused him to be arrested and placed in a little jail, mutually the property of the city and county, located near the intersection of Quincy and Third streets.

Not many nights after, there proceeded to the jail three good citizens—two G's. and an A. by name. They threw a coffee sack over the head of the guard, who, suspecting that some harm was designed upon him, broke out of the sack and ran upon the street with cries of alarm. The three citizens thought it prudent to retire, but at a later hour in the night, the sheriff having kindly placed a guard on duty not so easily disturbed, the men returned to the jail, placed a rope about Edwards' neck, drew him up as high as the low ceiling joists would permit, not quite far enough to relieve his toes from the floor, and left him there.

The expense of burial to the public was slight, and no complaint was made on account of it.

ADVENT OF THE SPARROWS.

In the month of March, 1874, F. W. Giles, C. W. Jewell, Samuel Davidson, and a few others, purchased and had shipped to them from the city of New York twenty-eight sparrows. They were not well cared for on the way, and arrived at Topeka in bad condition, though two or three only had died. They were received with the kindest attention, though not so intelligently cared for as a better knowledge of their nature and habits would have enabled their friends to bestow. They were restrained of their full liberty for fear they would wander and be lost, until all but five birds had died. In desperation, these were turned out to take their chances of life or death in their new home a thousand miles or more from any of their kind, for at that time they had not been brought to any Western city. They took up their home at the place of the writer, where special preparations had been made for them, and which they at once seemed to appreciate, quite to his delight. The following autumn there were twelve birds, in the second autumn sixty, and in the third about three hundred!

The city was soon filled with them. The number has not been perceptibly increasing for some years in Topeka, but they have established colonies in different places in the State, some as far as a hundred miles away.

When the country was first settled, there were scarcely any signs of insect life, but when the ground was brought under cultivation they appeared like the plagues of Egypt. The sparrows soon wrought a change, and in a few years the insect annoyance was entirely abated; and being abated, the people forgot the deliverers, as of old, and the cry ensued, "Away with the dirty sparrows!"

INTRODUCTION OF ELECTRIC LIGHTS.

In the spring of 1882, the city council entered into contract to have seven towers, of 150 feet in height, erected for the display of electric lights, of the Brush patent, for the sum of $6,000, and with other parties, to provide the electricity.

About $20,000 was expended in providing the power and generating apparatus, and a considerable part of the work done in the erection of towers, one being completed, at the intersection of Kansas and Tenth avenues, and a light was displayed there on the evening of the 27th of July, of 2,000-candle power—the first in Kansas.

There had been considerable murmuring in the community at the course of the council in regard to the matter, and this was greatly intensified by disappointment in the degree of illumination produced.

The city council thereupon compromised in settlement with the party who was to erect the towers, by paying $2,700. The one tower remains, a useless memento of an ill-advised scheme. The company that had provided the means of generating the electricity was a heavy loser, but brought no suit against the city.

Incandescent lights were first used in Topeka in the month of January, 1886.

RIVAL TOWNS.

AUBURN.

WHILE there were more than twenty town-building schemes undertaken within a radius of as many miles from Topeka, in three years from the time it was founded, none of them ever became really rivals of Topeka but Tecumseh — the names and localities of nearly all the others being now generally unknown to the public. Auburn created a little anxiety on account of the location of the county seat, and repeatedly in subsequent years had measures on foot that, if they had not failed of accomplishment, would have done temporary injury. Prior to the settlement of Kansas by white people, the Pottawattomie Indians had selected for purposes of an Indian village a pretty site at the junction of the three streams which form the Wakarusa river, a little to the southwest of the present town of Auburn. In July, 1854, Mr. John W. Brown, who had for some time been in Government employ, came to this locality, and being charmed with its natural attractiveness, secured from the Indians their title to it. He soon after returned to parts of Missouri where he was acquainted, and told his friends that he had found the garden of Eden. A number of families, among whom were those of Messrs. Carriger, Snyder, Reed, Jones, Webb and Johnston, nothing loth to visit the sacred spot Mr. Brown supposed he had found, returned with him, and, indeed, other evidences of their friend's good fortune, than the fact that "three rivers went out from there," they found, in many things—enough at least to chain them there, in all satisfaction.

In 1856, Mr. Brown associated with himself Messrs. M. C. Dickey, Loring Farnsworth and Henry Fox, for the purpose of establishing a town. They preëmpted 320 acres of land near Mr. Brown's place, platted it for that purpose, and christened it Auburn, though for several years after the place was known as Brownville. It was located immediately upon the line of the great California road—whitened every day by long trains of canvas-covered wagons, laden with freight for the Government, or for Santa Fé traders, the plains resounding with the sharp report of the ox-men's murderous thong, and the carcasses of exhausted animals, like milestones, marking the way. The travel upon this road, and the near proximity of the Pottawatomie nation, made the location a favorable one for trade. The work of building at once began. Dwelling houses, stores, mills, a large and attractive hotel, and buildings for religious and educational purposes, appeared, of superior quality, and in rapid succession, betokening an intelligent and determined purpose on the part of the little community assembled there.

During the years 1858–9 the town received a great deal of attention from immigrants, its population and wealth constantly increasing, and the town presenting augmented attractiveness. Two daily stage lines brought large mails, and strangers thronged the hotel to its utmost capacity.

A good weekly newspaper was maintained, and business and social relations between Brownsville and Topeka, and other principal towns, were frequent and pleasant to all who had occasion to go there. The writer of this sketch found it to his interest to purchase native lumber and merchandise there for a house he was building at Topeka, in 1859.

A persistent effort was made for the construction of a railroad from Leavenworth, *via* Lawrence and the Wakarusa valley, to Auburn, and it was at one time near accomplishment. But Auburn, notwithstanding her persistent and well-directed efforts to maintain herself, was doomed to disappointment. Of the causes that contributed to this result, may be mentioned a large decrease of trade, incident to the abandonment of farms in districts contiguous to her, on account of the drouth of 1860, and the subsequent removal of large numbers of Pottawatomie Indians, who had done their trading there.

Finally, Topeka was promoted to the position of State capital, under the effect of which she soon attained an influence and a commercial importance in the county that it were useless to contend against.

Auburn then rapidly sank from her best estate, and became as now, to console herself in singing the plaints of Goldsmith, for his own deserted Auburn.

TECUMSEH.

Very few towns have been founded in Kansas under more favorable circumstances than was Tecumseh. For many years prior to the passage of the Kansas-Nebraska act, Thomas N. Stinson, as an Indian trader, had been familiar with the valley of the Kansas river and adjacent country. In the exercise of a wise discretion, he had selected one of the most picturesque localities of all the places of beauty in that valley as his home, and in advance of all others had acquired title in land there—eight hundred acres, as fertile and beautiful as the heart of man could desire.

Perceiving his opportunity, Mr. Stinson, in September, 1854, procured an engineer, and had a portion of his lands laid out for town purposes. Gov. Reeder made this house his stopping place when on travels up and down the valley, in the fall of 1854, and in his proclamation for the first Territorial election, held November 29th, named Stinson's as the place for voting in the third electoral district.

It was said that Gov. Reeder, struck by the beauty of the locality, and its eligibility as a site for the capital of the future State, suggested to Mr. Stinson the scheme of making it such. Be this as it may, it is unquestionably true that a tacit understanding was entered into between themselves and others, in the fall and early winter of 1854, to that end, and Gov. Reeder is supposed to have been largely interested in forwarding the arrangement. Not only so, but, as well authenticated rumor had it, U. S. judges and other officials, representing the influence of the Territorial government, were associated in the scheme, and it was prearranged that Gov. Reeder would call the first Legislature to meet there.

During the winter, however, a violent feeling arose between the Governor and the people of Missouri, and this so estranged him from them, and all their influences and associates, that he determined to hazard the capital scheme, and call the Legislature at a place as far from that influence as possible. This action somewhat discouraged his associates, but the enterprise was not abandoned.

When the legislature was in session at Shawnee Manual-Labor School, the subject of making Tecumseh the Territorial capital was brought prominently forward. The Tecumseh Town Association, represented by Thos. N. Stinson, James Hunter, Abraham Comingo, Albert Elmore, A. J. Isaacs, James M. Hunter, and their associates, was incorporated, and it is probable that corner lots were freely offered for votes.

A rival scheme, however, was broached—that of locating the capital at a place afterwards known as Lecompton. A sharp rivalry ensued among the interested legislators, but the city in the hollow won, and a potent argument to produce that result was said to have been the expediency of reducing the abolition towns of Lawrence and Topeka, by placing the capital as nearly as might be midway between them. Had Tecumseh prevailed, and an honest expenditure of the money appropriated by Congress for building a capitol been made, it is not improbable that the State capital would have been located there. Losing the greater prize, she was made the county seat, and given all the power to retain that honor that could have done her any good.

During the winter of 1854–5, a number of families settled at Stinson's, and a little grocery and a drug store were started. In the spring of 1855, ten or fifteen men of enterprise and influence, actuated to a considerable degree by the anticipation of the locality becoming the capital, settled there, and during the ensuing summer and autumn the semblance of a "town" was quite apparent.

A ferry was established on the river and public improvements were in contemplation. During the year 1856, Tecumseh assumed its most violent character as a Pro-Slavery town, and the probabilities of a clash at arms between her and Topeka became so great that she called upon Gov. Geary for protection. Notwithstanding the general gloom pervading Kansas on account of the political agitations, Tecumseh got her court house built, and grew apace as a commercial and political point. She was quick to perceive the importance of a bridge over the Kansas river, and secured an exclusive charter of bridge privileges at that point and for five miles west of it, at the second session of the Territorial Legislature, doubtless expecting to prevent Topeka from securing a like privilege.

The bridge company contracted for an iron superstructure to be built at Cincinnati, and entered upon the work of preparing abutments for its reception. The undertaking involved a much greater expenditure than the little community was able to make, and during 1857 the political prospects were evidently against her, so that the work could not be pressed with vigor.

Topeka, too, was making efforts for a bridge, and actually completed one of cheap construction in the spring of 1858. This had the effect of quite demoralizing the Tecumseh enterprise. Drafts were made upon her bridge company which it could not pay; discouragement and inaction followed.

Later in the season the bridge at Topeka was carried away with the flood. This revived the hopes of Tecumseh, and work was resumed there, an abutment having been nearly completed on the south bank of the river, made of the well-adapted stone of that vicinity, and which was a fine specimen of bridge architecture.

In 1858, Tecumseh attained her best proportions. She then stood fully the rival of Topeka in attractions for trade, having mills, and mercantile houses of cost and elegance, well supplied with goods, and enjoying trade even from her only rival. A newspaper was published there, and whatever advantages could come from being the county seat were hers. But with the passing away of 1858, passed away too, forever, those advantages. In January, 1859, the public archives were removed from her, and the pretty village—two years before so full of hope—now mourned and decimated to decay.

Men of southern origin and politics, discouraged by the declining prospect of Kansas becoming a slave State, as well as of Tecumseh becoming the capital, or shire town even, removed to more promising localities in the Territory, or returned to their native States.

The decay once begun, rapidly spread to entire desolation. Dwellings once surrounded by well-kept grounds and floral charms—the pride and satisfaction of their possessors—were at common, and swine within the dwelling walls. Storehouses, once filled with costly merchandise, and noisy from words of traffic all the day, stood in lonely silence, or rattled their sash and slammed their doors in discordant tones with winds that whistled through; village cows shaded themselves and clanged their bells in court house rooms and corridors, aforetime familiar with judicial mandates and the rattle of the crier's bell; while streets were lost in the wilderness of native grass.

Then ensued the scene of buildings falling from neglect, or moved for sheds and barns to surrounding farms, the closing of unused streets and parks, and the reversion of lots and blocks to fields of agriculture. The court house came to vendue sale, and for the meager sum of $500 its dissevered parts were carried away, to reappear in modest farm cottages, and now—where scenes of commerce and social gaiety filled the day—there wave rich fields of ripening grain, that reconvert the abandoned town to its primitive picturesqueness.

LAWRENCE.

But the rivalries that existed between Topeka and other localities were as children's play in comparison with the gladiatorial struggle she had with Lawrence. That city was founded four months prior to the founding of Topeka, and under circumstances that gave her a political influence far greater than any other town in the Territory. Leavenworth, even, from 1855 greatly superior in commercial affairs, hardly assumed rivalry with Lawrence in her political influence till about the close of the Territorial period; while Topeka was far in the background till about the same time.

The Free-State government—at this time better designated as the Topeka State government—had given a considerable noteriety to Topeka, which was not altogether agreeable to Lawrence, in anticipation of the very important subject of the location of the State capital; but her influence otherwise was so far in ascendancy of Topeka, that no feeling of alarm disturbed her. When, however, the Leavenworth constitutional convention, and following that, the Wyandotte constitutional convention, named Topeka as the temporary seat of the State government, Lawrence was aroused to a sense of her danger; and when at length the

Territory was admitted as a sovereign State in the Union, and it became incumbent upon the first Legislature to submit the question of the permanent location of the State capital to popular vote, a feverish anxiety at once arose upon the subject at the two points principally competing for the prize, Lawrence and Topeka. Leavenworth indeed put forth some pretensions of rivalry for that honor, but she to some extent waived it before the day of election, in favor of Topeka, possibly as much from a little dislike of Lawrence's commercial aspirations as from love to Topeka.

The campaign upon the location of the capital was most vigorously prosecuted, as between Topeka and Lawrence, the former having an advantage in location, and the latter in her political and financial superiority. The result was a grievous disappointment to Lawrence, but still she by no means doubted her ability to maintain her commercial superiority.

The railroad era soon succeeded the establishment of the State; and in the apportionment of Government lands destined in aid of the railroad system, as it at that early day had been devised, Lawrence secured what at the time was regarded as the best part, in the Galveston road, for it was then supposed that Galveston was to become the principal port for the incoming and outgoing commerce of Kansas.

With the establishment of the State government, ceased the preponderance of Lawrence as a political center, and her rivals in that respect from year to year became more prominent, and as between Topeka and Lawrence there arose a rivalry for commercial advantages, incident to the building of the railroads.

When the roads were opened to St. Louis and Chicago, the Leavenworth, Lawrence & Galveston road, which it had been confidently expected would, in its day, become the great commercial way of Kansas, rapidly sank to its present low estate, and became to Lawrence of scarcely any value at all. The Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fé road, on the other hand, grew in commanding importance, and Lawrence, disappointed in her expectations in regard to the Galveston road, sought by most energetic and persistent measures, not only to recover her commercial status as against an overpowering city on the east, but also to wrest from Topeka the advantages she had legitimately won through the Santa Fé road. The struggle of Topeka to hold and of Lawrence to wrest away those advantages was most bitter and determined, even amounting in some degree to personal animosities between their citizens. The manner of that warfare on the part of Lawrence was fraught with devices of diplomacy and strategy quite dishonorable, the Topekans thought.

LEAVENWORTH.

As between Topeka and Leavenworth, no rivalry has at any time existed, except upon the subject of the place of holding the Federal courts; indeed, the great preponderance of Leavenworth as a commercial point, for twenty years after the settlement of the State, quite precluded a claim of rivalry by any other town.

Upon the establishment of the State government, the Federal courts were removed to Topeka, and she had supposed that their sessions would be held here without question, and that in due time there would be erected a commanding judicial edifice, at the expense of the General Government.

When, however, Topeka was before Congress asking an appropriation for that purpose, Leavenworth engaged in the erection of a county court house of a magnitude and style very unusual, and, as would appear from an examination of State archives, in a peculiar way paid for to a considerable extent by the commonwealth; and the free use of this she proffered to the Government as a place for holding the Federal courts; so that, when Topeka repressed for an appropriation, Leavenworth responded that it were quite unnecessary for Congress to grant it, because Leavenworth was already provided with ample accommodations for the Federal courts, and of which she would be pleased to grant the free use to the Government.

Finally, the State was divided into Federal judicial districts, and Leavenworth was recognized as the seat of one of them, but Topeka gained her fine Government building. At the date of this writing, Leavenworth enjoys prominence as the manufacturing city of Kansas, and has a population about 6,000 less than Topeka, while Topeka has a wealth nearly thirty per cent. greater than Leavenworth, and otherwise enjoys many advantages over her.

COURTS OF SHAWNEE COUNTY.

UNDER the act of Congress by which Kansas was erected to be a Territory, provision was made for the establishment of probate courts, which, in addition to the powers usually incident to such tribunals, might also exercise civil jurisdiction.

The Territorial Legislature of 1855 more particularly defined the powers of this court, and, for the county of Shawnee and counties judicially attached, appointed Wm. O. Yeager as probate judge. No session was held by Judge Yeager for hearing civil causes.

P. C. Schuyler succeeded Judge Yeager, by popular election, on the 5th of October, 1857, but declined to qualify, upon the very extraordinary ground of incompetency, and on the 27th of February, 1858, the county board appointed Edward Hoogland to the office.

Judge Hoogland went through the formula of holding a session for hearing civil causes in the fall of 1858, but only a very small number of cases were docketed. He resigned early in the year 1859, and the county board appointed to the place Samuel T. Walkley.

Alfred L. Winans was elected to the office on the 8th of November, 1859; John T. Morton succeeded Judge Winans in January, 1867; Lewis Hanback succeeded Judge Morton in January, 1869; D. C. Metsker succeeded Judge Hanback in January, 1873; G. W. Carey succeeded Judge Metsker in January, 1877; D. A. Harvey succeeded Judge Carey in January, 1881; and holds the office at the date of this publication.

Rush Elmore, of Alabama, was appointed by President Pierce as one of the Associate Justices of Kansas Territory, and qualified to that office on the 15th of October, 1854.

By proclamation of Gov. Reeder, the Territory subsequently organized into Shawnee county, and a large district beyond, was constituted judicial district No. 2, and Judge Elmore assigned to it.

Judge Elmore organized his court at Tecumseh, on the 30th of June, 1855, but little more than to organize was done, for the good reason that there was nothing else to do.

The Territorial Legislature of 1855 established the counties, and constituted Shawnee and counties attached for judicial purposes district No. 4; the courts to be held at Tecumseh, on the fourth Monday of December in each year.

Judge Elmore held a term there in the fall of 1855, but in the summer of 1856 he was removed, and Sterling B. Cato appointed in his place. Judge Cato was removed by President Buchanan, and Judge Elmore reinstated, in the summer of 1857. Upon petition of citizens, no court was held in the fall of 1860, on account of the oppressive drouth that year pervading the Territory. He held his last court at Topeka, which was the last under the Territorial period, in April, 1861, the room occupied being in the Ritchie block; where was also at the same time held the United States District Court, Archibald L. Williams, judge; John T. Morton, clerk.

The Territorial Legislature of 1858 constituted the counties of Davis, Dickinson, Riley, Pottawatomie, Wabaunsee and Shawnee as judicial district No. 3, and at the general election on the 8th of November, in 1859, Jacob Safford was elected as judge of that district, and opened his first regular term October 7, 1861. Judge Safford was succeeded by M. H. Case in 1861; Charles K. Gilchrist succeeded Judge Case in 1865; John T. Morton succeeded Judge Gilchrist in 1869; was reëlected in 1872, in 1876, and in 1880, and resigned on the 1st of February, 1883. John Martin was appointed by Gov. Glick, on the 23d of January, 1883, and confirmed in the office by popular election at the general election in the fall of that year. John Guthrie succeeded Judge Martin by election, in 1884.

The business of the court at that time had so increased that there were about 750 cases awaiting trial on the court docket, and at the earnest solicitation of the people of the district the Legislature established an additional court, under the title of the superior court, and Gov. Martin appointed William C. Webb to the judgeship.

THE FIRE DEPARTMENT.

ON the 10th day of June, 1859, at 4 o'clock in the morning, occurred the first destruction of a building by fire in Topeka. It was located on the rear end of lot No. 146 Kansas avenue, was owned by Mr. E. C. K. Garvey, and occupied for the storage of corn by Harvey G. Young. Mr. Young lost the value of two or three hundred bushels of corn, and the insurance company lost the value of the building.

On the night of April 3d, 1869, was destroyed by fire a building at No. 104 Sixth avenue east, in the chambers of which was published the *Topeka Record*, and below was kept the postoffice, Mr. Samuel Fletcher, postmaster, and that the last day of his incumbency. It was the most disastrous fire that had occurred at Topeka.

On the 28th of November, in the same year, was destroyed by fire the Ritchie block, situated on the southeast corner of Kansas and Sixth avenues, a large, three-story brick building, as an inducement for the construction of which the Topeka Association had given to Mr. John Ritchie, in 1855, six lots at the locality where the building stood. Among the losses sustained by that fire were the books of the Register and Receiver of the U. S. Land Office, whose offices were kept in its chambers.

Down to that time Topeka had had no apparatus for the extinguishment of conflagrations, and it would seem the citizens had very little care for any, for on the 5th day of January, 1870, the city council had submitted a proposition to popular vote, for raising the sum of $12,000 with which to buy a steam fire engine, and the establishment of a fire department, and the public indifference was such that no one voted. The passion for voting had wonderfully subsided since the passing away of Territorial days.

In February of 1870, however, a Sibley steam fire engine, two hand hose carts, and 1,500 feet of rubber hose were bought by the city, and a volunteer company of firemen organized. In November, 1870, Mr. Tobias Billings was chosen chief of this company, and soon after a hand hook and ladder truck and ladders were purchased.

On the 1st day of June, in that year, at an early hour in the morning, the hotel known as the Topeka House, and situated on the northeast corner of Kansas avenue and Fifth street, was consumed by fire.

G. O. Wilmarth was elected to the command of the fire department in April, 1872, and has continued in that position to the date of this writing.

Prior to the introduction of public water, on the 1st of July, 1882, the department were dependent upon cisterns, placed, with one exception, on Kansas avenue, and from time to time filled with water pumped by the department machines from the river. For two or three years after the organization of the department its headquarters were on the west side of Quincy street, between Fifth street and Sixth avenue, in an old blacksmith shop; but in 1873 the city caused to be erected for use of the department a stone building near that locality, of suitable quality and dimensions.

In 1874, the city erected a one-story building on Kansas avenue near Seventh street, for the care of such apparatus as it was desired to keep in that part of the city. The Champion chemical engine was the first machine stationed there.

In 1878, the spacious and perfectly arranged quarters on Seventh street, between Kansas avenue and Jackson street, were established, and there the headquarters of the fire department have since been held, quite to the pride of all good Topekans.

In 1882, was erected a neat and substantial one-story building of brick and stone, to be used as a fire station, on Jefferson street, between Second and Third streets.

In 1883, a highly ornate and perfectly apportioned brick building, for uses of the department, was erected on Kansas avenue near Gordon street. This house is designated as fire station No. 1, that on Seventh street—headquarters—as No. 2, and that on Jefferson street as No. 3. The approximate cost of these buildings, grounds not included, is $27,124 in the aggregate.

The apparatus so existing at the close of 1885 consisted of two two-horse four-wheel carriages, each carrying 1,000 feet of hose; one one-horse two-wheel hose cart, carrying 800 feet of hose; two two-horse chemical engines—large size; one two-horse hook and ladder truck; one light two-wheel chief's wagon; one Ahrens steam fire engine, held in reserve; one one-horse two-wheel hose cart, carrying 800 feet of hose, held in reserve, and ten horses.

The manual force of the department is seventeen men, employed night and day, which includes the chief and one assistant; also three night men, on duty only at night—one at each of the fire stations; making a total force of twenty men under discipline and command at all times.

The public water works were introduced in July, 1882, with fifteen miles of mains and 150 double fire hydrants; the number of hydrants being, at the close of 1885, 185, and the length of mains nineteen miles. In the same year, the German fire alarm telegraph was introduced by the city, at an expense of $8,225. It now embraces eleven signal street alarm boxes, three key signaling stations, an electric gong at each of the fire stations, at the water-works engine house and at the residence of the chief, and employing nine miles of telegraphic line. The annual expense of the fire department to the city is about $17,000, which includes ordinary purchases of some new material, apparatus and horses.

The monetary value of the real estate, apparatus and appliances belonging to the department is stated at the sum of $57,600.

On the 1st of January, 1876, Chief Wilmarth laid the foundation for the present "full-paid system," by selecting sixteen of the best and most efficient men from the volunteer service, as it existed prior to that date, and this force of sixteen men were placed at once under thorough drill and discipline, and paid a fair compensation for their services by the city. The result was that quicker and more efficient service was given to our citizens from that date. Improvements and changes have been made since then, from year to year, as the city's growth has demanded, and now we have one of the most complete and perfect fire organizations of any city in the West.

A CITY IN A FOREST.

WHEN the first settlement was made at Topeka, on the south side of the river, there was no growing tree, shrub, or bush back from the first or lower bottom, the boundary of which was about by the north line of First avenue on the west of Kansas avenue and thence bore northward and came to a point at the intersection of Madison street with the river. This lower bottom was well timbered. The entire country was annually burned over, so that only by the low margins of streams, in a measure secluded from the driving winds of autumn and winter, could any tree or shrub live.

The settlers, generally unused to so high temperature as prevailed, suffered greatly from heat in their frail habitations for a few years, and naturally their attention was given to the importance of planting shade trees; and as we now look down the long streets so closely bordered with shade trees that one can hardly get a glimpse of the rows of houses standing back of them, the remembrance of the scene as it was twenty-five or thirty years ago affords a most striking contrast; then the few little, plain cottages, at broad intervals of space over the clean prairie, unmarked by tree or fence or road, but everywhere the sea of waving grass.

At the time of organizing the Topeka Association, a provision was adopted for planting shade trees upon the public parks—now Capitol square and Bethany square, and on the fifth of March, 1855, the following by-law was adopted:

> No member of the association shall mar, cut or take away, without consent of the association previously obtained, any of the living trees or shrubbery within the city boundary, under penalty of not less than one nor more than twenty dollars, to be determined by the trustees; and further, the trustees are requested to institute legal proceedings against any person not a member who shall trespass upon the city property as prohibited in this article.

In 1856, an appropriation was made by the association for the purpose of planting trees, and a row was set out on the east side of Kansas avenue, between Fifth street and Sixth avenue.

Immediately after the organization of the city government in 1858, the council adopted an ordinance as follows:

> *Be it ordained by the Mayor and Council of the City of Topeka:*
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> SECTION 1. That any owner of a lot upon which a building has been erected, shall set out or cause to be set out shade trees in front of such lot or lots, eighteen feet from the line of the lots on the avenues, thirteen feet on the 100-foot streets, and ten feet on the 80-foot streets, and fifteen feet apart on each.
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> SEC. 2. That upon the refusal or neglect of any person to comply with the provisions of the first section of this ordinance, the street commissioner shall order the shade trees to be set out in the manner aforesaid, and the costs thereof shall be charged in the delinquent tax list.

In 1867 and 1868, three city ordinances were passed to promote the planting of shade trees upon the streets, and from that time a change has been wrought that would seem impossible to persons not acquainted with the rapidity of the growth of trees in Kansas.

In 1881, a society was formed under the title of the "Topeka Improvement Society," in which a large number of citizens took an active interest, for the purpose of promoting the planting of shade trees and otherwise enhancing the beauty of the city. Under its influence an ordinance was adopted in 1883, setting apart one-fourth of the breadth of each street for parks, to be decorated and cared for by the owner of abutting lots, and this, in connection with previously-existing ordinances, has had the effect of so increasing the number of shade trees and ornamental shrubbery, that the title of this article seems in summer time no exaggeration.

ASYLUM FOR THE INSANE.

PRIOR to 1875, Topeka had not been able to get any of the eleemosynary or reformatory institutions of the State located in her vicinity, owing to advantages it was supposed they would bring to localities where they might be established. Not that Topeka was in any sense under a ban from any other locality, but having secured what was regarded as the lion's share of the good things the State had to dispense, in her election as the State capital, her desires were overruled by the Legislature in behalf of less fortunate localities. Thus the Penitentiary had been located at Leavenworth, the University at Lawrence, the Asylum for the Blind at Wyandotte, the Agricultural College at Manhattan, and the Asylum for the Insane at Osawatomie—all localities of predominating influence before the Legislature when these several institutions were founded.

As a State policy, however, this distribution of the State institutions had never been regarded as the best, and now that the demands for largely increased accommodations for lunatics had arisen, the Legislature wisely adopted a departure from precedents, and made provision for locating a new institution for such unfortunates at the State capital, where it would be conveniently under the inspection of State officers, and of the Legislature when in session.

At the session of 1875, an act was passed for this purpose, and the sum of $25,000 appropriated to commence the work. The act provided that the site should be selected by the trustees of the Osawatomie asylum, to be within two miles of the State capitol, to be in quantity not less than eighty acres, and the title of which should be secured to the State without any expense to it.

The selection of a site was determined about the first of July, and then came the question of raising funds to pay for it. The sum required for this purpose was about $12,000, and the burden of this payment was intentionally left by the Legislature for the people of Topeka, or of the county of Shawnee, to raise; not upon any theory of justice, of course, but because it was thought this community would pay it. The payment was made by the city and the county in about equal proportions, an ordinance to that effect having been adopted by the city council at the earnest solicitation of citizens, on the 30th of June, though there existed no legal justification for such an appropriation. Excavations were made and the foundation was laid in the fall of 1875.

In 1876, the unexpended portion of the appropriation of the previous year, $14,000, was expended, and in 1877, $76,000 more was appropriated for continuing the work during that and the succeeding year, the biennial sessions of the Legislature having then been adopted.

The buildings contemplated under these appropriations were completed late in the autumn of 1878, and the institution opened for the accommodation of patients in the summer of 1879, and at which time the state made an appropriation of $13,000 to pay for additional grounds.

In 1881 an appropriation of $150,000 was made, in 1883 the sum of $108,234, and in 1885 the sum of $219,000, only a small part of the last-named sum having been expended at the close of 1885.

The buildings are all of stone or brick, three stories and basement in height, most substantially and artistically arranged in a system of groups, which admits of indefinite extension without disturbance of the general harmony. The site is most commanding and healthful, on the high banks of the Kansas river. Under the superintendance of Dr. B. D. Eastman, it is thought to be one of the best institutions of its kind in the United States.

CHRIST'S HOSPITAL.

THE establishment of this institution was immediately attributable to Mrs. Ellen S. Bowman Vail, wife of the Rt. Rev. Thomas H. Vail, Bishop of the Diocese of Kansas, who in sickness went so near unto death, that when at length partially restored to health, though her eyesight was forever lost, she seemed to have been sent back to life as a child that had forgotten something, to fulfill a new duty in behalf of her suffering fellows.

A thank-offering to God was her first thought, and a home for His sick and troubled ones the form it should take.

Her noble resolve found a quick response in her husband, and the twain went up to the altar with their offering together. Their gift for the founding of Christ's Hospital was ten acres of land, of great value, near the city, now occupied by the hospital.

A charter was taken on the 1st of July, 1882, by Bishop Vail and fifteen associates, representative of the most influential religious bodies of the State, and a constitution and by-laws with great care drawn and adopted. An organization meeting was held on the 7th day of July, 1882, at which the Rt. Rev. Thos. H. Vail was chosen president; John R. Mulvane, treasurer; D. W. Nellis, secretary.

Buildings were erected in the autumn of 1883 and the spring of 1884, and first opened for the care of patients about the first of May, 1884. Their capacity is equal to the convenient placement of thirty beds for patients. The cost of the grounds, buildings and furnishings has been, at the close of the year 1885, a few hundreds less than $25,000, and which has been raised as follows:

From Bishop Vail	$7,060 75
From Mrs. Vail	5.036 55
From friends in Topeka	6,365 42
From friends outside of Topeka	6,142 00
	$24,604 72

In addition to the grounds and buildings, there is an endowment, already paid and bearing interest, viz.:

From Mrs. Vought, of Freehold, New Jersey—the "Philip Grandin Vought" endowment	$5,000 00
From Mrs. Vail, the Child's Cot, "Samuel Bowman Vail," endowment	3,000 00
From children and others, "The Children's Cot" (yet incomplete)	1,700 00
	$9,700 00

Christ's Hospital, though under the immediate ownership of a board of trustees, of whom a majority are of the Protestant Episcopal Church, is in no sense sectarian, but in its charter, in its bylaws, as also by its daily workings, it cherishes the broad catholicity of a universal brotherhood among men; for, like the good Samaritan, it cannot turn a deaf ear to any one in distress.

THE FIRST MORNING.

THE founding of Topeka was not a premeditated scheme, but rather an accident, as men count accidents. The little company of strangers, now appropriately styled the "Fathers of Topeka," for the first time exchanged greetings around the camp fire, on what is now the northwest corner of Kansas and First avenues.

It was just as the sun went down, on the 4th evening of December, 1854, and they busied themselves during the twilight in erecting barriers against the winds and frosts of approaching night, in gathering prairie grass to rest and sleep upon—if rest and sleep they might.

When the discomforts of the night were past, and the little party had broken fast upon such meager fragments of food as they chanced to have, they walked out upon the elevated divide separating the valleys of the Kaw and the Shunganunga, more fully to view the site of their briefly-considered enterprise.

No cloud was within the bounding horizon; the sky higher and broader than ever before; the atmosphere clear, cold and highly rarified, revealing to the astonished vision objects far beyond its usual ken, and those at hand in strange expanse; the broad belt of timber emerging past the highlands from the unknown west, and stretching far away to the east, holding in its dark embraces the river of Kansas, its presence there anon revealed by vista-views of crystal ice, radiant with morning light.

The Shunganunga, past Burnett's Mound, and joined by Willett's creek, coursed its sinuous way through rich, alluvial meadows. Martin's, Deer, Stinson's and Tecumseh from the south; Soldier, Muddy, Half-Day and Indian from the north—silent little rivulets, by wooded borders made conspicuous on the scene—at equal distances bisecting the broad valley of the Kaw, to confluence with its gulf-bound waters.

The general topography—the limitless field of ever-varying, never-tiring undulations, symmetrical beauties every one—called forth devout gratulations, alike for faculties which find delight in form, and these natural objects to satisfy their cravings. The great sun poured its flood in genial rays of red askance the plain, dissolving frost to dewdrops on the seared grass, and inviting the perceptions to the pure and the picturesque. And over this varied scene of beauty, an all-pervading sense of solitude, deep and awful as eternity.

Memory turns to such a morning, and amid such surroundings beholds a little group of men standing against the sky on yonder plateau, exchanging glances of doubtful recognition, and contemplating with eager interest the scene of life's labors before them.

FINALE.

KANSAS, sir, is the Cinderella of the American family; she is insulted, she is smitten, and disgraced; she is turned out of the dwelling, and the door is locked against her. There is, however, always a fairy that takes care of the youngest daughter, if she be the most honest, the most virtuous, the meekest and the most enduring of the domestic household.—*Charles Sumner, in U. S. Senate.*